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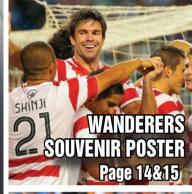
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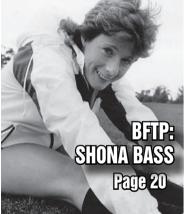
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FFA Futsal National Championships deliver once again

By Russ Gibbs

The 2013 FFA Futsal National Championships threw up a week of fast-flowing, end-to-end futsal with an action-packed conclusion in front of a packed AIS Arena on Grand Final day. The quality was there for all to see in each and every age group from the titanic struggle for supremacy in the Open Men's competition all the way through to the intensely fought battles at the lower end of the age spectrum.

As usual the blue ribbon event, the

Men's Open competition, provided an eclectic mix of playing styles culminating in a sensational Final. Heading into the final round of group matches five of the seven entrants still harboured ambitions of playing in the semi-finals and it wasn't until the final match between ACT and South Australia that the make-up of the final four was ultimately decided. The home territory had to dig deep to secure their semi-final place at the expense of Western Australia who were the unfortunate one's to miss out. A youthful NSW team had performed admirably during the week but ran out of steam against the more experienced ACT in the last four, the ACT winning 4-1 after going 0-1 down against a short-handed NSW who had seen goalkeeper Roberto Maiorana sent off early on. Robbie Cattanach slammed a second half hat-trick to see the ACT through to the big dance. There they would face Victoria who knocked out Queensland in their semi-final after the Maroons, upon their return to the Open Men's competition, had ended the week

The final had everything you could want from a Futsal match, and then some with the ACT coming through in a nail-biting penalty shoot-put after a thrilling 3-3 draw. The ACT got off to a flier with Daniel Fulton, later named Player of the Match and Player of the Tournament, giving his team the lead after only 15 seconds. By halftime the ACT was sitting pretty as further goals from Cattanach and a superb solo effort from Stephen Domenici put them into a handy

in top spot

GIRLS' UNDER-12

NSW Metro 5 (own goal 1', Olivia Robinson 5', 22', Rosaria Galea 37', Bethany Gordon 38') NSW Regional

GF MVP: Olivia Robinson (NSW Metro) Player of Tournament: Connor Johansen (Queensland Regional)

BOYS' UNDER-12

NSW Regional 4 (Jacob Vasiliou 3', Rocco Chisari 25', Tallon Zahra 29', Dean Pelekanos 40' (pen)) NSW Metro 3 (Joel King 2', Zachary Duncan 9', Brodie Clarkson 36') GF MVP: Dean Pelekanos (NSW

Regional)

Player of Tournament: Zara Hossack (ACT)

BOYS' UNDER-13

Queensland 2 (Joshua Nisbet 13', Adam Sawyer 19') NSW Metro 3 (Will Carter 8' Conor Quilligan 35', Marley Paterson 38') GF MVP: Conor Quilligan (NSW Metro) Player of Tournament: Marley Peterson (NSW Metro)

BOYS' UNDER-14

NSW Metro 10 (Anthony Haddad 4', 23', 32', Liam McGing 9', 37', 39', Jake Borro-

3-0 lead. Throughout the week the ACT squad had been decimated by injuries and the lack of numbers was to almost cost them dearly. Victoria, led by the outstanding Futsalroo international Fernando De Moraes, hit back within a minute of the re-start as Ionathan Barrientos, their exceptional captain, slotted in from close range to spark the comeback. Vadim Mazurskiy made it 3-2 in the 32nd minute and, when Barrientos netted his second with five minutes to play, the momentum was with the Victorians. Neither side could add to the tally in the final few minutes and extra time failed to find a winner. The shoot-out was nerve-racking but eventually Angelo Konstantinou saved from Victoria's Mirza Pedic to see the ACT home 6-5.

Women's Final

The Open Women's final was slightly more prosaic but nonetheless as intriguing. The ACT had been in great form all week and secured their Grand Final spot with the minimum of fuss. Their opponents would be Victoria who stunned NSW Metro in their final

meo 15', Brodie Smith 20', 22', Thomas Papa 31') Victoria 2 (Ryan Dragovic 8' Nathan Liberto 38')

GF MVP: Brodie Smith (NSW Metro) Player of Tournament: Anthony Haddad (MSW Metro)

GIRLS' UNDER-14

NSW Metro 4 (Lorena Bugden 1', Demi Koulizakis 23', 25', Rochelle Borromeo 30') South Australia 2 (Lani Cheetham 28', Alexandra Chidiac 39')

GF MVP: Lorena Bugden (NSW Metro) Player of Tournament: Emma Gibbon (Queensland Regional)

BOYS' UNDER-15

NSW Metro 6 (Marino Trimboli 1', Edward Rinaldi 5', 20', Michael Loupis 28', 32', 40' (pen)) ACT 4 (Nic Dahl 9', Thomas Milicevic 12', 24', Will Hunter

GF MVP: Michael Loupis (NSW Metro) Player of Tournament: Thomas Milicevic (ACT)

AWD

Southern NSW 0 Queensland 4 (Michael Mills 43', 45', Todd Schaefer 49', own goal 50') - after extra time

group clash coming out on top in a wonderful match by 5-3 thanks to a brace of late goals from Stephanie Tanti. The Victorian side, coached by Jeff Hawkins, couldn't find the necessary way through the ACT in the Final though as goals in either half from Sarah Crittenden and Rachel Crittenden eased the host team home 2-0.

Tanti, and her team mates Emily Hulbert and Tina Grkinjic, were selected for the first ever Women's All-Star squad as were a plethora of ACT players. For the first time the FFA recognised the best Open Women and Youth players selecting two All-Star teams to reward the quality of play seen across a stunning week. Indeed, the Youth competition was a particular success with the Grand Final between ACT and NSW Metro a fitting conclusion to the Finals day. The match started with a bang, a goal inside the opening 40 seconds from Ashleigh Palombi, as the ACT

NSW Metro turned the game on its head though as Jessica Elliott struck twice and Alex Smith and Amy Dahdah put the Sydney-based GF MVP: Nathan Whalen (Southern NSW)

Player of Tournament: Sebastian Saura (NSW Regional)

BOYS' UNDER-16

NSW Metro 2 (Kristopher Vlismas 14', Alexander Vlismas 24') NSW Regional 1 (Jake Douglas 17')

GF MVP: Alexander Vlismas (NSW Metro)

Player of Tournament: Brandon Gage (Queensland Regional)

GIRLS' UNDER-16

NSW Regional 5 (Nadia Nisbet 7', Tara Pender 11', Rhianna Pollicina 23', 27, Anja Cherry 26') NSW Metro 1 (Logan Garrard 25' (pen)) GF MVP: Rhianna Pollicina (NSW

Regional Player of Tournament: Renae Pantelis (South Australia)

YOUTH MEN

NSW Metro 2 (Jordan Guerreiro 43', Robert Ezekiel 49') South Australia 0 GF MVP: Callum Scott-Mills (South Australia)

Player of Tournament: Jordan Guerreiro

side 4-1 to the good at the half-time interval. Amazingly the ACT hit back in the second half as Natalie De Marco and Ashleigh Palombi (twice) found the net within five minutes of the re-start to make the score 4-4. Incredibly Xanthe Dumbrell had NSW back in front within a minute and a double to leading scorer Rachel Perrins, moving her to a round dozen for the competition, ended a quite remarkable game 7-4 in favour of

Earlier in the day NSW Metro had taken out the Youth Men's title being made to work exceptionally hard for the crown beating South Australia 2-0. Goals from Jordan Guerreiro and Robert Ezekiel in the last seven minutes proved the difference in a match that saw Daniel Fornito (NSW) and Anthony Ture (South Australia) sent off. South Australian goalkeeper Callum Scott-Mills certainly didn't deserve to be on the losing side putting in a Player of the Match display, making a string of saves that could only be described as

(NSW Metro)

YOUTH WOMEN

ACT 4 (Ashleigh Palombi 1', 23', 24', Natalie De Marco 21') NSW Metro 7 (Jessica Elliott 2', 9', Alex Smith 15', Amy Dahdah 19', Xanthe Dumbrell 26' Rachel Perrins 31', 36') GF MVP: Ashleigh Palombi (ACT)

Player of Tournament: Tahlia Davidson

OPEN MEN

ACT 3 (Daniel Fulton 1', Robbie Cattanach 6', Stephen Domenici 9') Victoria 3 (Jonathan Barrientos 22', 35', Vadim Mazurskiy 32') - after extra time, ACT win 6-5 on penalties GF MVP: Daniel Fulton (ACT)

Player of Tournament: Daniel Fulton

OPEN WOMEN

ACT 2 (Sarah Crittenden 17', Rachel Crittenden 39') Victoria 0 GF MVP: Sarah Crittenden (ACT) Player of Tournament: Luisa Marzotto

World-class. Metro deserved their win but South Australia's future in Futsal looks bright with Scott-Mills and Adam le Cornu one's to keep an eye on.

Under 16 Girls

For the first time the Girls' under-16 competition reverted to the full-size international court and the players certainly lived up to the billing. NSW Regional won the title with a 5-1 win over NSW Metro in the Final with Rhianna Pollicina a stand-out. Pollicina scored twice and was voted Player of the Match in a game that featured plenty of talent. Logan Garrard of Metro showed composure and distribution that belied her youthful age whilst goalkeeper Dana Buttigieg showcased her ability in a beaten team. For the victors Tara Pender scored a cheeky flick and Anja Cherry was a constant menace, finding her way on to the score sheet in the 16th minute as Regional showed just how effective soaking up pressure and hitting on the counter can be.

Photos: RUSS GIBBS

The Boys' under-16 event saw the Vlismas brothers, Kristopher and Alexander, take centre-stage as NSW Metro defeated NSW Regional 2-1. The brothers scored similar goals in either half, getting on the end of slick passing moves to finish from close range. In between Jake Douglas, who had a super match, netted with a solo goal that saw him beat three attempted tackles before sliding in a finish from the top drawer.

AWD Final

The final game of the morning session was the eagerly anticipated AWD final between Southern NSW and Queensland with the Maroons emerging victorious from a tight clash 4-0 after extra-time. Southern NSW have been the standout team in this division for the two years previously having been undefeated at the Futsal National Championships, a record that threatened to stretch to three years following this match. Both teams worked exceptionally hard for this one though with Queensland pushing them every step of the way forcing the match into extra-time after forty minutes of action failed to separate the two combatants. And, it was in the extra period that Queensland finally snapped Southern's dominance. Michael Mills proved the difference with a stunning display in the extra ten minutes, striking the opening goal and going on to claim a brace with his pace and finishing first-class. Todd Schaefer also netted for Queensland in a great display. Southern NSW goalkeeper Nathan Whalen was impressive for the vanguished Southern making a string of outstanding saves, but it was Queensland's day in the end.

In the six junior categories it was NSW Metro (Thunder) that, once more, proved the team to beat winning five age-groups and being runner's-up in the sixth. The Blues won the Boy's under-13, under-14 and under-15 competitions and the Girls' under-12 and under-14 with only the under-12 Boys' title eluding them as NSW Regional (Lightning) came out on top by the odd goal in a seven goal thriller.









PHOENIX v JETS

RESCHEDULED

The Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle

Jets match in Round 26 of the Hyundai A-League, scheduled for Saturday 23 March at Westpac Stadium, has been

rescheduled to Wednesday 27 February

due to a clash with the FIFA World Cup

Oceania qualifying matches between

the New Zealand All Whites and New

against the Solomon Islands on Tuesday

26 March. The FIFA World Cup Oceania

qualifiers were not confirmed until after

the Hyundai A-League 2012/13 season

Up to 10 Wellington Phoenix players

are expected to be unavailable for

selection due to national team duties.

Wellington Phoenix do not have a Na-

tional Youth League team from which to

draw was released.

Caledonia on Friday 22 March and

at the same venue (7.30pm kick off).

The match has been rescheduled

Rojas receives NAB Young Footballer of the Year nomination



Melbourne Victory star Marco Rojas has been named as the third nominee for the 2012/13 NAB

Young Footballer of the Year Award.

Rojas was voted the most outstanding U21 player for the month of December following standout performances in four matches.

The Kiwi-international was a standout for Melbourne Victory in the past four rounds helping the team surge up the Hyundai A-League table into third.

Rojas has scored 10 goals in the 2012/13 season so far, including four stunning strikes throughout the month of December. His extraordinary brace against the Newcastle Jets helped secure the points for his side against Emile Heskey's men in front of a huge crowd at AAMI Park, while his opening goal in the Melbourne Derby allowed Melbourne Victory to take all three points against their team's cross-town rivals.

"I've certainly felt like I have been playing with a lot more confidence this season and most importantly, we are getting our share of results on the pitch as well," Rojas said.

"The credit also needs to go to the boys around me because without the excellent service I've received this season I don't think I'd have been able to perform anywhere near as well as I have." Tim Clarke, Head of NAB Enterprise Sponsorship & Events said NAB is delighted to see the

Adelaide United FC

striker Sergio van

Dijk has officially

been released from

his contract to pur-

Indonesian club PT

sue a career with

Persib Bandung Bermartabat,

Van Dijk found himself on the outer

at Hindmarsh Stadium since openly

lands, after they failed to adjust to life

three times for the Reds domestically

admitting last year his want to be

closer to his family in the Nether-

The Dutchman has featured just

this season, and has consequently

coach John Kosmina.

developed a frosty relationship with

With fellow striker Bruce Diite set

to spend time on the sidelines after

injuring his groin in the 3-2 win over

make his first appearance this week

since the 2-1 loss to league leaders

But while van Dijk is pleased to be

back in the frame after an extended

stint with the Baby Reds in the Na-

tional Youth League, the 2010-11 A-

focused on sorting out his future,

"I want to play as soon as possible,

so if I can find something and it's a

go," said van Dijk, who spoke to the

good deal for everyone. I hope to

even if it meant jumping ship.

League Golden Boot winner remains

Central Coast in December.

Perth last Friday, van Dijk is in line to

effective immediately.

in Adelaide.



Marco Rojas celebrates with team mates after scoring a brace against Newcastle Jets last month.Photo: ANITA MILAS

NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award continue to unearth future stars of the game.

"We congratulate Marco on his nomination and look forward with great anticipation to watching his development in the years to come," Mr Clarke said.

"As a supporter of the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award, NAB is proud to play an important role in identifying and rewarding tomorrow's stars of football."

Rojas is the third nominee for the annual award with three future

Reds agree to part ways with van Dijk

decide what's going to happen.

'try and keep him here' (in Ad-

elaide), but I want to play as well.

order and my chances are really

"I'm third (striker) in the pecking

small, so I think it's time to move on.

"If I can leave, I'm happy to leave

"The Adelaide chapter is closed.

It's sad, but I know in a way that's

football and it can be a hard world."

Although Indonesia remained the

time for van Dijk having not received

near his Holland-based family, some

A-League teams remained optimistic

of luring the 30-year-old on a short-

more plausible destination at the

any offers from clubs in Europe

and start a new chapter.

"I understand that people will say

nominees to be in the running for the grand prize.

The overall winner will receive a \$10,000 personal investment portfolio, a NAB Private Client Manager to assist with a range of banking and financial services, and the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award.

To aid the development of future football stars NAB have generously donated a \$3,000 equipment pack that will go to Rojas' chosen junior football club, Ngaruawahia United, in Hamilton, New Zealand.

Expansion side Western Sydney

Wanderers who are pushing for

a debut finals berth and reigning

minor premiers Central Coast who

and possibly forward Bernie Ibini

and goalkeeper Mat Ryan, could be

However, van Dijk scoffed at any

not really my intention to go to

"The main thing is my family

wouldn't be an improvement

suggestion of remaining in Australia.

The A-League, I don't know, that's

another club in Australia," he said.

reasons to leave Australia and that

"The economical situation isn't as

good as in Asia, so Indonesia would

"It's a lot closer to Europe and my

family's home country, but in Europe

there are not as many opportunities

and clubs that would like to sign me,

so I have to make the best of both

Questioned as to whether he was

United, van Dijk rejected such a

bitter or had any ill feelings towards

"I'm not angry. I am frustrated and a

bit disappointed in how things have

been working out, but the next step

is my new future and a new chapter,

Adelaide takes on Melbourne Heart

and I hope I can turn this around,"

at AAMI Park on Friday night.

situations and chose.

be the most logical step for me.

lost promising midfielder Tom Rogic

Socceroos set to play Romania friendly



Football Federation Australia (FFA) announced that the Qantas Socceroos will play an international

friendly match against Romania in Marbella, Spain, on Wednesday 6 February 2013. Qantas Socceroos Head Coach

Holger Osieck is looking forward to the first match of the new year as his team embarks on the final stages of their qualification campaign for the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

"This is a welcome opportunity to check on the performance of some of our players against Romania who are a very good team and will be a very challenging opponent," said Osieck.

"With the recent matches in the Korea Republic and Hong Kong we have seen some new players added to the group and as a result the competition for places in our group has increased.

"This match will not be just a friendly, but also a good test for the players ahead of our important qualifier against Oman."

This will be the first meeting between the Qantas Socceroos and Romania at senior men's international level.

The Qantas Socceroos are currently 36th in the FIFA Men's Rankings with Romania in 33rd position.

This will also be the Qantas Socceroos last international friendly match before their next 2014 FIFA

Match Details

Romania v Qantas Socceroos Wednesday 6 February 2013 Venue TBC, Marbella, Spain Kick-Off Time: 8:00pm CET (6:00am AEDT, Thursday 7 February 2013)

Current FIFA Men's Ranking (as at 19 December 2012)

Qantas Socceroos - 36 Romania - 33

World Cup Asian Qualifier against Oman at Sydney's Stadium Australia on Tuesday 26 March. Romania are currently in third position of Group D in their 2014 FIFA World Cup European qualifiers and will also face Poland in an international friendly on Friday 2 February in Malaga, Spain.

The match will be played in Marbella and will be broadcast Live and Exclusive by FOX SPORTS in Australia.

Ticketing details will be released at a later date.

The Qantas Socceroos return to Australia in 2013, for the FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Oman at Sydney's Stadium Australia, Tuesday 26 March, followed by Jordan at Docklands Stadium in Melbourne on Tuesday 11 June, before returning to Stadium Australia for the Iraq match, on Tuesday, 18 June.

Tickets for both matches at Stadium Australia are on sale now through www.footballaustralia. com.au/tickets or via phone on 132 849.

call up players and the Phoenix Centre of Excellence players are subject to international transfer restrictions and not able to be signed outside of the registra-

Beach Soccer on SBS
SBS will stream Australia's group stage
matches from the 2013 FIFA Beach Soc
cer World Cup Asian Qualifiers in Qatar,
LIVE and exclusive online at www.sbs.
com.au/theworldgame from Wednesday
23 January to Friday 25 January.
Oman v Australia

Wednesday 23 January 1:30am AEDT Qatar v Australia

Thursday 24 January 4:00am AEDT **Australia v Afghanistan** Friday 25 January 12:15am AEDT

One Match For Arnold Central Coast Mariners coach Graham Arnold has been suspended for

ham Arnold has been suspended for one match as a result of being sent off from the bench in the 1-1 draw with Melbourne Victory played in Tasmania last weekend.

Evertonian joins SouthSouth Melbourne FC has signed former

The 25 year old Irishman comes to the club following an outstanding year with Southern Stars where he played a leading and dominant role in the middle of the park. Kearney spent four seasons with Everton, earning a call up to the senior training squad alongside Socceroo Tim Cahiil. During his time with the Toffees he managed to play in Everton's reserve side, where his outstanding performances ensured that he was a regular throughout his time spent there.

South have also signed 24 year old striker Rhys Meredith for the 2013 Victorian Premier League season. Meredith joins the club from Brisbane

Premier League club Redlands United, where he was regarded as one of the most dangerous and exciting attacking players in the league. The speedy attacker's 19 goal 2012 season caught the eye of A-League outfit Western Sydney Wanderers, with Tony Popovic asking Meredith to trial with the club, but after some solid displays he was ultimately not offered a contract.



Newcastle Jets have released defender Tiago Calvano from the remainder of his contract.

The mutual termination of the contract

enables the Brazilian to join Sydney FC for the rest of the A-League season as an injury replacement for Pascal Bosschaart - who has been ruled out for the remainder of the season after scans confirmed he required surgery on a heel injury.

Francesco Stella joins Ange's Army Melbourne Victory is delighted to anpast 4 months in Scotland with Rangers

Melbourne Victory is delighted to announce that it is has signed promising Victorian youngster, Francesco Stella, on a two-and-a-half-year deal. Having moved to Italy at the age of just

Having moved to Italy at the age of just 17 to join Italian Serie A club, AC Siena, the now 21 year-old attacker spent the

after signing a one-year deal with them, before recently seeking a release, after interest came from Melbourne Victory for him to return home.

Stella is expected to arrive in Melbourne next week.

Roar Agree Paartalu Transfer



has reached an agreement for the transfer of dual-Championship

winning midfielder Erik Paartalu (pictured) to Chinese Super League outfit Tianjin Teda.

Subject to the successful completion of a medical in China next week, Paartalu will transfer to Tianjin immediately, meaning he has drawn a curtain on his highly successful time with Brishane

Paartalu signed from Scottish side Greenock Morton prior to the Hyundai A-League 2010/11 season, penning a three-year deal which was set to expire at the conclusion of the current campaign.

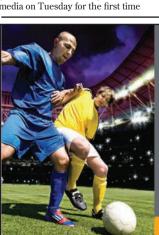
The defensive midfielder played an important role in Brisbane's back-to-back Championships, including his celebrated headed goal in extra time against the Central Coast Mariners which sent the 2011 Grand Final to penalties with virtually the last touch of the match and a successful effort in the subsequent shoot-out.

In all, Paartalu represented the club



Paartalu joins the Aussie exodus.

in 85 official matches, a total which includes all six of Brisbane's inaugural AFC Champions League campaign games.



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GOREB

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners	16	10	4	2	26	11	15	34
2 Adelaide United	16	10	2	4	27	19	8	32
3 Melbourne Victory	16	8	3	5	27	27	0	27
4 West Sydney Wanderers	16	8	2	6	19	13	6	26
5 Newcastle Jets	16	6	2	8	20	28	-8	20
6 Perth Glory	16	5	4	7	18	17	1	19
7 Melbourne Heart	16	5	3	8	21	24	-3	18
8 Brisbane Roar	16	5	2	9	19	20	-1	17
9 Sydney FC	16	5	2	9	20	33	-13	17
10 Wellington Phoenix	16	4	4	8	19	24	-5	16

Fri Jan 18 Sat Jan 19

ROUND 18

Fri Jan 25

Sat Jan 26

Sydney FCv Wellington Phoenix Central Coast Mariners v Newcastle Jets Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory Brisbane Roar v W Sydney Wanderers

Central Coast Mariners v Adelaide United Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC W Sydney Wanderers v Melbourne Heart Perth Glory v Brisbane Roar **Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets**

Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United

VENUE AAMI Park Allianz Stadium Bluetongue Stadium nib Stadium

Suncorp Stadium

Westpac Stadium

VENUE LOCAL **AEDT Bluetongue Stadium** 7:30pm 7:30pm **AAMI Park** 5:30pm 5:30pm **Parramatta Stadium** 7:45pm 7:45pm nib Stadium 9:45pm

LOCAL

7:30pm 5:30pm 7:45pm

6:45pm

4:30pm 2:30pm

AEDT

7:30pm

5:30pm

7:45pm 9:45pm 5:00pm

ROUND 16 RESULTS

Sydney FC 2 (Emerton 85, Grant 90+3)

Melbourne Heart 1 (Garcia 24) Crowd: 13,125 @ Allianz Stadium

Newcastle Jets 1 (Griffiths 48) **Brisbane Roar 0**

Crowd 10, 164 at Hunter Stadium

Melbourne Victory 1 (Flores

Central Coast Mariners 1 (McBreen 77) Crowd: 6238 @ Aurora Stadium

13 - Daniel McBREEN (Mariners)

10 - Jeremy BROCKIE (Phoe-

Marco ROJAS (Victory)

8 - Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide) **Besart BERISHA (Roar)**

7 - Emile HESKEY (Jets) 6 - Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)

Jeronimo Naumann (AUFC) 5 - Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)

Mark BRIDGE (Wanderers)

Compiled by

Steven Talevski

Adelaide United 3 (Jeronimo 28, 37, Ramsay 46)

Perth Glory 2 (Smeltz 89p, McGarry 90)

Crowd: 10,129 @Hindmarsh Stadium

Wellington Phoenix 0 Western Sydney Wanderers 2

(Topor-Stanley, Haliti) Westpac Stadium, NZ



Newcastle Jets' Ryan Griffiths moves up one place on the goalscoring charts after grabbing the all-important winner against Brisbane Roar.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round



GK: Nathan Coe - Coe has been in good form since returning from Europe and made several terrific saves against the Mariners including denying both Adam Kwasnik and Michael McGlinchey.

RCB: Patrick Zwaanswijk - The central defender returned from injury this weekend and it did not seem like he was out at all with a typical performance from the Dutchman.

CB: Nikolai Topor-Stanley - A clean sheet in Wellington is always impressive as Topor-Stanley was a solid rock in the centre of the Wanderers defence. However his game was highlighted on the other side of the pitch with a terrific header for Western Sydney's opener.

LCB: Rhyan Grant – Known a plugger by his team mates, Grant had a good game at full back for Sydney and gets a spot filling a whole in Goal! Weekly's team of the week. Much like Topor-Stanley, Grant's game was highlighted by him scoring an injury time

RDM: Mark Milligan - Another typical performance by Milligan shielding Victory's back four while also having an attacking influence as he could see himself unlucky not to be on the score sheet.

LDM: Ruben Zadkovich - One of this season's most improved midfielders, Zadkovich was superb in the Jets midfield as they were able to pick up the three points and keep their second clean sheet of the

RAM: Dario Vidosic - Vidosic was once again at his best, troubling the Perth defence. Vidosic's best moment in the win was his terrific ball to Jeronimo Neumann for his double.

CAM: Aaron Mooy - With Ono on the bench again, Mooy was allowed to play in more of an attacking position in which he took with both hands and set up a great goal for Topor-Stanley.

LAM: Ian Ramsey - In an unusual start for the winger, Ramsey pressed his claim for a more regular spot in the first eleven with a great performance and a stunning strike from the edge of the penalty area.

ST: Jeronimo Neumann- It wasn't to long for Neumann to enter the game as the substitute came on early for an injured Bruce Djite and took no time to score his double before the half time whistle.

ST: Ryan Grittiths - The statesman was a constant attacking threat for the Jets attack, troubling the Roar defence as he scored the sole goal on the game.

Coach: Tony Popovic – After a home loss to the top of the table Mariners, Popovic regrouped his Wanderers squad and led them to a two nil victory away to the Phoenix. Although they are sitting on bottom of the table, Wellington is always a hard place to visit however it did not look like Wanderers weren't going to leave without any points after a positive display.

Star Man 📜 Jeronimo Neumann Adelaide United



The Argentine began the game on the bench and came on early in the first half to replace the injured Bruce Djite. Neumann was quick to hand Adelaide coach John Kosmina a message by starting him on the bench as he bagged a double before half time ensuring Adelaide United to pile the pressure on the visitors to stage a comeback

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for further details

Adelaide United





Match Details

Adelaide United FC 3 (Neumann 29'/37', Ramsay 46') Perth Glory 2 (Smeltz 90' (pen), McGarry 90+3') Referee: Peter Green Crowd: 10,129 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

Adelaide United starting lineup: 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c), 5.lain Fyfe, 6.Cassio, 10.Dario Vidosic, 11.Bruce Djite (21.Jeronimo Neumann 5'), 12. Antony Golec, 14. Cameron Watson, 16. Daniel Bowles, 17 Iain Ramsay, 18 Fabian Barbiero (2. Osama Malik 86'), 23.Evan Kostopoulos (24.Awer Mabil 81') Substitutes not used: 20.Paul Izzo

(gk) Yellow Cards: Galekovic 17' Red Cards: Nil

Perth Glory starting line-up: 1.Danny Vukovic (gk), 3.Bas van

den Brink, 5.Steve Pantelidis 7.Jacob Burns (c), 8.Dean Heffernan, 9. Shane Smeltz, 10. Liam Miller (15.Brandon O'Neill 75'), 12.Ryo Nagai (6.Nick Ward 46'), 13.Travis Dodd (18.Jesse Makarounas 71'), 14.Steven McGarry, 21.Scott Jamieson

Substitutes not used: 30.Lewis Italiano (gk) Yellow Cards: Pantelidis 59'

Red Cards: Nil

Jeronimo double sparks Reds to glory By Nic Kerber

Adelaide United FC has kept proximity on the Hyundai A-League's top spot as the Reds

continued their impressive home form, surviving a late scare to beat Perth Glory 3-2 at Hindmarsh Stadium.

It was a case of Jeronimo Neumann at the double as the Argentine proved a super sub, scoring a first half brace, giving him six for the season, after coming off the bench just five minutes in because of a groin injury to fellow striker Bruce Djite.

A cracking strike from Iain Ramsay in the opening minute of the second half made it 3-0 to put the possibility of the Reds recording their biggest ever win over the Glory on the cards, but a Shane Smeltz penalty and a Steven McGarry goal, both in injury time, meant the home side was made to sweat for the final 60 seconds before wrapping up the three points.

The win, which saw 17 year old Awer Mabil make his Hyundai A-League debut, was the Reds' first over Perth in six meetings, while it also gave them a seventh win from nine starts at home this season.

Coach John Kosmina acknowledged the Glory put the Reds under serious pressure for much of the contest, and was pleased the way the players weathered it.

We didn't panic but we were shaky at the start and Perth put us under a lot of pressure - they're a good side," Kosmina said.

"They came here to press high.. but when we settled down it panned out for us. They put us under some pressure and we absorbed it, and that was a good thing - we didn't cave in and showed a bit of desperation in front of goal.'

We got the bogey off our back with Perth because if you remember last year here, we battered them for 15 minutes and could have been leading 5-nil, then they scored and the game went 3-nil against us, so football balances out over time."

Despite conceding twice in injury



Argentine Jeronimo Naumann slips the ball past an advancing Danny Vukovic in the Glory goals. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

time to create a nervous finish, in the aftermath Kosmina was focused on seeing it as a victory over an extremely tough opponent.

"These things happen but at 3-nil we still got out of it and at the end of the day you've got to look at it and say we got three points against a really difficult side to play against," Kosmina said.

Djite's night lasted less than 90 seconds as he pulled up during a seemingly innocuous run to get onto the end of a long Dario Vidosic pass and the action would be his last as he was forced from the field.

Enter Neumann. He had a golden chance to put the Reds in front in the 9th minute as an errant pass from Bas van den Brink left him one on one with Danny Vukovic, but he could not beat the Glory keeper.

Perth's high pressing, pressure game required some cool heads from the Reds and after doing well to stand up to it, the home side was unlucky not to go ahead in the 22nd minute as the Glory penalty area resembled a pinball machine, the Reds denied three times by some desperate last ditch Glory defending.

Starting to build up some pressure of their own, United's breakthrough came in the 29th minute when a direct long ball from Antony Golec created jitters at the back for Perth, Vidosic's presence causing two poorly attempted clearances, the

second from Scott Jamieson which caught Vukovic out and allowed Neumann to pounce and smash the ball in from a metre out.

In an action packed first half, it was then Perth's turn to be denied three times in quick succession, McGarry hitting the woodwork, Smeltz kept out by Golec before Galekovic held onto a goal bound Liam Miller shot.

The Reds then made the most of their good fortune as Vidosic perfectly measured a ball to Neumann's advantage side of his marker, allowing him to use his pace and clinically slot his shot past Vukovic.

A stunning half volley into the top corner from Ramsay a minute after the restart made it 3-0. Galekovic

then pulling off a typically brilliant reflex save to tip a stinging Smeltz shot over the bar in the 66th min-

Perth kept trying to attack but the Reds were holding firm having not conceded a goal in their past two games. But just when it appeared another big win was looming, a tough penalty call against Golec on Smeltz had it back to 3-1, the Reds defender having had the New Zealand international's measure for most of the night.

McGarry then created a tense finish as he struck but the Reds hung on to put them just a point behind the Central Coast Mariners heading



Naumann celebrates coming on as a goal-scoring susbstitute with a little dance with Dario Vidosic. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Ian Ramsey left foot strike finds the top corner and the Reds are cruising at 3-0. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



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Melbourne Victory



CC Mariners



Match Details

Melbourne Victory 1 (Flores 42') **Central Coast Mariners 1** (McBreen 77') Aurora Stadium, Launceston Referee: Jarred Gillett Attendance: 6,238

Melbourne Victory: 39. Nathan Coe (Gk), 3. Adama Traore, 5. Mark Milligan, 9. Marcos Flores, 10. Archie Thompson, 11. Marco Rojas (26. Andrew Nabbout 81'), 13. Diogo Ferreira, 14. Billy Celeski 21. Spase Dilevski (8. Jonathan Bru 61'), 23. Adrian Leijer, 24. Nicholas Ansell (6. Leigh Broxham 45') Substitutes not used: 1. Tando Velaphi (Gk) Yellow cards: Celeski 45', Leijer 64', Ferreira 69'

Central Coast Mariners: 1.

Red cards: Nil

Mathew Ryan (Gk), 2. Daniel McBreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 5. Zachary Anderson, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson (c), 14. Michael McGlinchey, 18. Nick Montgomery (11. Oliver Bozanic 39'), 21. Mile Sterjovski (13. Brent Griffiths 90+3'), 23. Adam Kwasnik (9. Bernie Ibini 46') Substitutes not used: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)

Yellow cards: Montgomery 6', Bozanic 67', Zwaanswijk 87' Red cards: Nil

Victory Squander Chances As Arnold Explodes

By Walter Pless

Melbourne Victory had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Central Coast Mariners at Launceston's Aurora Stadium on Saturday after squandering a host of scoring chances on what was a perfect playing surface.

Archie Thompson, making his 150th A-League appearance for Victory, was one of the main offenders when it came to missing sitters. The Socceroo should have opened the scoring in just the 2nd minute but was off target, while he missed three other good chances during the match.

Victory dominated the opening half, missed a penalty, and had only one goal to show for their superiority at the end of the first 45 minutes.

Mark Milligan went close for Victory in the 8th minute, his fierce drive flying just wide.

The penalty came in the 32nd minute when Nick Montgomery fouled Marcos Flores. Marco Rojas took the spot-kick, but although Mariners keeper Mathew Ryan was beaten, the ball came back off the right-hand post. The Mariners' best chance of

the half came on the quarterhour when Adam Kwasnik was through on goal but Nathan Coe blocked bravely at his feet and also smothered the shot from the rebound.

Adrian Leijer was also off target for Victory, while McBreen and Sterjovski missed shots for the Mariners

Mariners coach Graham Arnold took off Montgomery in exasperation with 7 minutes of the half remaining and replaced him with Oliver Bozanic, who had a fine game.

Flores made it 1-0 in the 42nd minute when Adama Traore col-



closes in. Photo: WALTER PLESS

lected a pass from Rojas and cut the ball back for the Argentine to slot home.

Just before the break, Mariners coach Arnold was sent from the bench after voicing his opinions about the refereeing.

The Mariners were a changed side after the interval and more than matched their opponents as they sought an equaliser.

Both goalkeepers rose to the occasion in the second half and both made outstanding saves.

In the 64th minute, Coe saved

brilliantly at close range from Michael McGlinchey.

In the 70th minute, it was Ryan's turn as he produced a marvellous save from Rojas and then acrobatically turned a second shot from Rojas over the crossbar.

The Mariners were thrown a life-line in the 77th minute when Victory skipper Leijer brought down McGlinchev and Daniel McBreen slotted home the penalty to take his season's tally to 13 goals.

Victory produced a fine attack

near the end but Celeski fluffed the finish, while Joshua Rose squandered a great chance for the Mariners.

Leijer headed narrowly wide right at the end as Victory sought to earn all three points, but it was two points thrown away as Mr Gillet blew the whistle to end the

Melbourne Victory coach Ange Postecoglu said: "It's definitely two points lost and we're not happy as we want to get reward for our good play.

"I have to commend the curator as the ground was absolutely first class.

Mariners coach Graham Arnold said: "They didn't carry out the game plan and we were lucky to be only down 1-0 at half-time.

"We were just legless and had nothing in the first half.

We could have got away with it, but through their missed chances, they kept us in the game."



Graham Arnold can't contain his frustration and is instructed to leave the coaching area to watch the rest of the match from the stands. Photo: WALTER PLESS



Mariner Nick Montgomery pulls the trigger as Victory goalscorer Marcos Flores attempts to squeeze the space. Photo: WALTER PLESS



Newcastle Jets



Brisbane Roar





Match Details

Newcastle Jets 1 (Ryan Griffiths 48') Brisbane Roar 0

Saturday, 12 January 2013 Hunter Stadium, Newcastle Referee: Strebre Delovski Crowd: 10,164

Newcastle Jets: 7. James Brown (22. Adam Taggart 82'), 8. Ruben Zadkovich (C), 11. Connor Chapman, 12. Joshua Brillante (16. Jobe Wheelhouse 73'), 13. Samuel Gallaway, 14. Taylor Regan, 15. Craig Goodwin (19. Michael Bridges 78'), 17. James Virgili, Mark Birighitti (Gk), 23. Ryan Griffiths, 26 Andrew

Substitutes Not Used: 1. Ben Kennedy (Gk)

Yellow Cards: TAylor Regan 1', Ryan Griffiths 45+1', James Virgili 56' Red Cards: Nil

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 2. Matt Smith (C), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic, 6. Erik Paartalu (8. Massimo Murdocca 66') 7. Besart Berisha, 11. Ben Halloran, 15. James Donachie, 17. Mitchell Nichols, 22. Thomas Broich, 24. Nick Fitzgerald (21. James Meyer 71') Substitutes Not Used: 4. Matthew Jurman, 20. Matthew Acton (Gk) Yellow Cards: Nick Fitzgerald 25 Red Cards: Nil

Beautiful Brown Back Heel Sinks Defending Champs

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets had the sublime skills of James Brown to thank as they defeated Brisbane Roar 1-0 at Hunter stadium in front of 10,164 fans. Brown's delightful back heel through to Ryan Griffiths in the 48th minute allowed the Jets striker to dink the ball past Michael Theo in goal and give the Jets a

Coach Gary Van Egmond was suitably impressed with the performance of his side as they dominated long periods of the match.

deserved victory.

"It would have been a bit of a travesty if we didn't get the three points. I thought it was excellent. What some of the youngsters lack in experience they make up for in attitude," he said.

Brisbane coach Mike Mulvey was nowhere near as pleased.

"It was a bit of a dour struggle. We weren't really at our best tonight. I thought we were worth an equaliser but it didn't happen," he said.

Both sides made nervous starts to the contest as they both struggled to maintain possession and frequently turned over the ball.

Craig Goodwin and Nick Fitzgerald had shots smothered for both sides but other than these efforts little occurred in the opening fifteen minutes.

On the stroke of the 20th minute, sustained pressing from the home side created a chance for Goodwin to take the lead. He drilled a left foot drive from the edge of the area that Michael Theo did well to parry wide of the post.

The Jets created another opportunity in the 36th minute. The much maligned James Brown skipped past Roar captain Matt Smith and cut back a beautiful pass to an unmarked Ryan Griffiths on the



The Newcastle Jets celebrate after Ryan Griffiths finished off some nifty work by James Brown. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

edge of the penalty area. His bent effort was too much for Theo but also the post and the Roar were lucky to escape.

Newcastle was really beginning to dominate the match which led to more chances. Firstly to skipper Ruben Zadkovich with a blocked shot and then a fierce drive from distance.

Goodwin should have given the Jets the lead on 43 minutes. The Roar turned the ball over straight to Griffiths and he played a diagonal ball directly into Goodwin's path. His usually silky left foot failed him and he scuffed his shot wide of the goal when one-on-one with Theo from 15 yards.

Newcastle deservedly took the lead in the 48th minute after some simply gorgeous work from James Brown. He sliced the Brisbane rearguard with a fantastic back heel and Griffiths did the rest by chipping the ball into the goal. Theo had a slight touch but could do nothing to stop the ball hitting the net.

Jets keeper Mark Birighitti did well to preserve the lead in the 58th minute. Mitch Nichols was slid through one-on-one and Birighitti smothered brilliantly.

The ball went straight up the other end and Goodwin had the chance to score but drilled his shot juts by the post. Griffiths was not impressed as he felt that the youngster could have slid him the ball for his second of the match. The Roar began to lift their

intensity but still struggled to create any meaningful chances. Mitch Nichols smashed a shot from a wide angle over the cross bar but other than that little was happening for the visitor. Brisbane went narrowly wide on

75 minutes. A free kick evaded everyone but the outstretched James Donachie whose effort slid despairingly wide of the post.

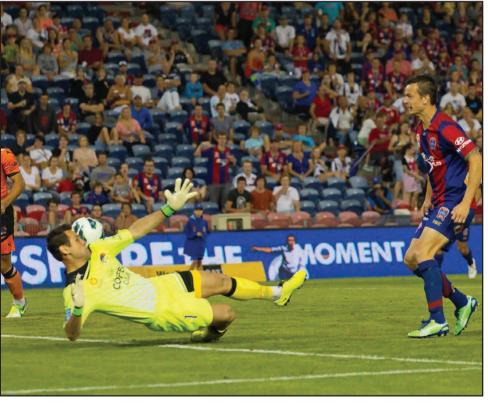
Besart Berisha summed up the night of the visitors in the 80th minute. Nichols squared the ball to the marksman 6 yards from goal. The normally deadly finisher somehow mistimed his shot and it bobbled away to safety.

time but the home team clung on valiantly to secure the victory and their second consecutive clean sheet. The result is just the tonic the

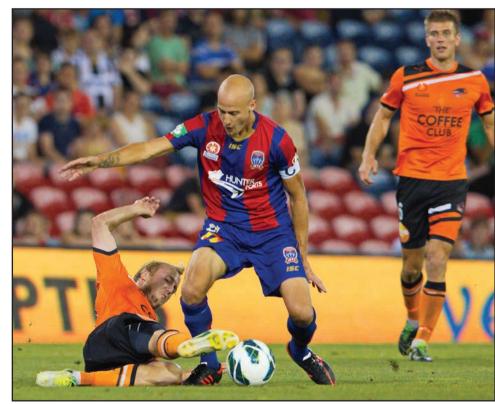
Brisbane pressed in stoppage

Jets needed as they head down the F3 next weekend to take on their fiercest rivals the central Coast Mariners.

Brisbane will look to regroup at home against the Western Sydnev Wanderers in front of their fans at Suncorp stadium.



Ryan Griffiths (Jets) manages to clip the ball past Michael Theo in the Roar goal and snatch a desperate winner. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



Ruben Zadkovich (Jets) tries to evade Mitch Nicholls slide tackle as Erik Paartalu looks on. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

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Wanderers Tighten Grip On Fourth, While Phoenix Falter

Wellington Phoenix





Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 0 Weatern Sydeny Wanderers 2 (Haliti, Topor-Stanley) Westpac Arena

Phoenix: 1.M.Paston, 3.T.Lochhead (15.C.Lindsay 79'), 7.L.Bertos, 10.S.Huysegems, 11.J.Brockie, 12.T.Boyd (9.B.Totori 63'), 16.L.Fenton, 17.V.Lia (6.A.Smith 72'), 18.B.Sigmund, 21.D.Sanchez, 22.A.Durante.

Unused Subs: 30.G.McMaster, ,

Yellow Cards: Sanchez 66', Lia 68' Red Cards: None

Wanderers: 1.A.Covic, 3.A.D'Apuzzo (2.S.Cole 69'), 4.N.Topor-Stanley, 5.M.Beauchamp, 6.J.Polenz, 7.L.Haliti, 8.M.Poljak, 10.A.Moov (21.S.Ono 74'). 17.Y.Hersi (14.K.Appiah-Kubi 78'), 18.I.La Rocca, 19.M.Bridge.

Unused Subs: 20.J.Tyson

Yellow Cards: La Rocca 31'. Red Cards: None

By Joe Gallagher

Wellington Phoenix's faltering A-League campaign suffered another hit last Sunday afternoon, going down 2-0 to competition debutants Western Sydney Wanderers at Westpac Stadium.

Goals to Nikolai Topor-Stanley and Labinot Haliti mean the Wanderers have tightened their grip on fourth place, while the home side look set to face an uphill battle to even feature in this season's playoffs.

It was a script that has played out far too regularly this season for the Phoenix - a lively opening half hour failed to reap any reward, and Ricki Herbert's men ran out of ideas the moment they fell behind.

The hosts slump to their third loss in a row and are without a point in 2013. It speaks volumes that the crowd of 6608 were at their most vocal when berating the performance of Tony Popovic's midfielder Aaron Mooy.

The Phoenix have come under pressure recently to provide a more attacking brand of football, and with the return of Tyler Boyd to the starting eleven were - with Stein Huysegems, Jeremy Brockie, Louis Fenton, Dani Sanchez – looking to silence their crit-

But they have struggled at the back this season - only managing three clean sheets - and it was an atrocious mix-up in defence which contributed to Herbert's third loss at home this

After a frenetic opening quarter of an hour the Phoenix fashioned their first chance after a cross from Tony Lochhead. Belgian striker Huysegems without a goal since his strike at Hindmarsh Stadium in round four - was first to the ball but could not direct his header towards the goal

Halfway through the opening stanza he could not have come any closer to breaking his duck. Fenton cut in from the right wing and rolled the ball into Huysegems' path. His drive beat Ante Covic in goal, who was saved only by the intervention of his crossbar.

Five minutes later it was Fenton himself who was denied - this time his tame shot fired straight at Covic. Midfielder Vince Lia's speculative strike was well saved by Covic, diving to his right, as the half drew to a close.

Mark Paston, who was comfortably the quietest of the two goalkeepers in the first half, smartly saved a Yousuff Hersi header with his legs after 35 minutes in what was Western Sydney's brightest moment of the first half.

But whatever Herbert said to his troops in the changing rooms at half time had the adverse effect on his

His side's enthusiasm and penetration went missing and, to the Wanderers' credit, they were able to shut down the threat posed by Wellington's fullbacks. It's hard to recall a Phoenix cross into the penalty area throughout the second spell, let alone a shot on goal.

But Western Sydney found another gear and the breakthrough was inevitable. Mark Bridge first found space on the edge of the area and fired his effort straight into Paston's arms. The time and space afforded to the Wanderers' leading scorer should have provided a short and sharp warning to Herbert, but his side continued to falter, while the visitors grew in confidence

And while there was nothing at all surprising about the arrival of the opening goal, there was a shock in its source. Topor-Stanley, a rock at the heart of Popovic's defence this year - scored only his fifth goal in nearly a century of A-League games.

72 minutes gone and Moov - who moments earlier was receiving taunts from the Yellow Fever - whipped in a dangerous cross ahead of Ben Sigmund. The All Whites defender could do nothing about Topor-Stanley's stooping header, and Paston was powerless to prevent the game's opening goal.

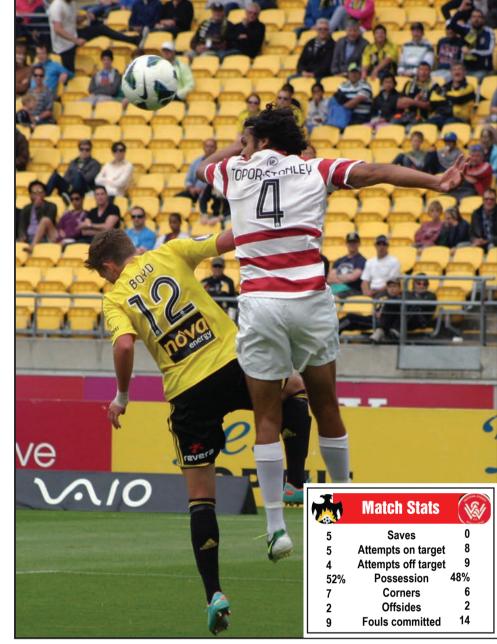
If that was deflating, words can simply not describe Haliti's killer blow ten minutes later. A harmless delivery sailed in between Sigmund and Paston, and while neither could communicate, Haliti stole in to tap home after quite shambolic defending from Sigmund.

As he lay on the turf bemoaning his mistake, behind him fans headed for the exits. It is a sight which is becoming a familiar one for a side who's home stadium was once considered a fortress.

Popovic will be understandably thrilled by the performance of his side which missed star Shinji Ono for over an hour. They travel to Brisbane next weekend with the very real possibility of advancing into the league's top On the other hand, the Phoenix will

not be too far from pressing the panic button. They travel to Sydney FC next

ng Herbert's dismissal have grown louder. There can be no mistake – they eached a roaring peak on Sunday af-



Western Sydney Wanderers hero Nikolai Topor-Stanley rises high to win the aerial contest against Tyler Boyd (Phoenix). Photo: PETER McDONALD



Ben Sigmund (Phoenix) can't get past the ever present Topor-Stanley. Photo: PETER McDONALD



Belgian striker Stein Huysegems tries to turn on the pace against Nikolai Topor-Stanley. Photo: PETER McDONALD



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A-League I Round 16

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Sky Blues Keep Season Alive With Heart Breaker





Match Details

Sydney FC 2 (Emerton 85', Grant 93') Melbourne Heart 1 (Garcia 24') Referee: Peter O'leary Crowd: 13,125.

Sydney FC: 20. Vedran Janjetovic (Ğk), 2. Sebastian Ryall 3. Fabio (28 Aaron Calver 77'), 6. Jason Culina, 7.Brett Emerton, 10. Alessandro Del Piero, 18. Trent Mcclenahan, 21. Yairo Yau, 22. Alia Abbas (12. Blake Powell 39'), 23. Rhyan Grant, 26. Peter Triantis (15. Terry Mcflynn 59')

Sub Not Used: 33. Matthew Nash

Yellow Cards: Peter Triantis 47, Rhyan Grant 54.

Melbourne Heart: 20. Andrew Redmayne (Gk), 4. Simon Colosimo, 5. Fred (27. Stefan Mauk 72'), 6. Patrick Gerhardt, 8. Matt Thompson, 10. Josip Tadic (9. Dylan Macallister 77'), 11. Richard Garcia, 13. Jonathan Germano, 16. Aziz Behich, 22. Nicholas Kalmar (17. Jason Hoffman 77'), 25. Jeremy Walker.

Sub Not Used: 1. Clint Bolton (Gk).

Yellow Cards: Patrick Gerhardt 65, Andrew Redmayne 68, Aziz Behich By Magnus Lewington

Sydney took all three points against Melbourne Heart on Sunday as the Sky Blues continue their push for a top six finish in this year's A-

For the greater portion of the match, a dour midfield contest produced little in the way of entertainment as 13 000 Sydney fans braved inclement weather at the Sydney Football Stadium. The Heart took the lead in the 24th minute via a Richard Garcia header resultant from a well worked free kick. With Frank Farina quite literally sweating on the result, a spirited last ten minutes demonstrated some of the attacking credentials that have been notably absent for long stretches of this season for FC. After missing an open goal earlier in the second half, Emerton managed to poke the ball past Heart keeper Andrew Redmayne in the 85th minute before Rhyan Grant headed in an unlikely winner in injury time to send The Cove into raptures. The win takes Sydney off the bottom of the ladder for the first time in 2013, and places doubt on Melbourne's chances of a finals birth as the regular season approaches its final period.

Farina would be especially disappointed with the first half, as Sydney repeatedly gave up possession and yielded precious territory to the Heart which was on the front foot for much of the opening period. Kalmer and Garcia both looked positive in the opening minutes, penetrating Sydney's defence and crafting several half-chances.

As the first half continued, and especially after Garcia's goal, the game entered a lull whereby ugly midfield football predominated. Late in the first half Sebastian Ryall thought he had equalised with a headed effort from a Del Piero free kick, only to correctly be called offside after the fact. Failure to hold onto possession or move the ball quickly for both sides meant few opportunities were created throughout the half, though no doubt the Heart's early domination and goal left them the happier of the two at the break. The Sky Blues entered the second half with a much more aggressive attitude,



SFC players are delirious after Ryan Grant nodded home the winner deep into injury time. Photo: GREG SEATON

inroads. Yairo Yau once again looked Sydney's most promising point of attack utilising his pace to repeatedly trouble the Heart's back four. He did however struggle to link up with midfield as few clear cut chances were created in the early minutes of the second

Emerton's opportunity at the 70 minute mark somewhat summed up Sydney's day up unto that point, with a burst of speed and well placed pass by Yau leaving the Socceroo with an open goal only to completely mug his shot, skying the ball over the bar. With their attacks looking increasingly desperate, the game looked beyond Sydney prior to Emerton's goal in the 85th. Having much more to do this time around, Emerton managed to create space in the box around Heart's central defence and slide a shot through Redmayne to put the teams back on terms. Sydney pushed on, and created a variety of chances before snatching the victory as Del Piero's cross from just outside the box found Grant for a point blank header into the Heart's goal.

Farina had stated prior to the match that Sydney needed to win both this match against Heart and next week's game against Phoenix in order to have a chance at making the finals of this year's competition.

Mark Bosnich and Craig Moore of Foxsports have said that the final ten minutes of the match against Heart could come to define the season for the Sky Blues, and while there is no doubt the three points earned will be important in their push for a finals spot, it will only be important in so far as they can summon the intensity of those minutes on a more regular basis as the season comes to a close. When

Farina's team have demonstrated that they have the capacity to stretch teams and create opportunities. They simply need to do this more consistently and demonstrate that they have the ability to not just produce solitary opportunities but control the flow of play over the course of 90 minutes; something they have categorically failed to do so far this season. Heart will be disconsolate after surrendering the lead, and must dig deep if they themselves are to make a claim on the competition at the business end of the season.

pushing for a goal and under pressure.



Socceroo saviours: Brett Emerton throws Sydney FC a life-line much to the delight of team mate Jason Culina, Photo: ALI ERHAN



Crushed Heart keeper Andrew Redmayne can only ponder as Sydney FC executed the perfect Harry Houdini act. Photo: ALI ERHAN



PICS OF ROUND 16

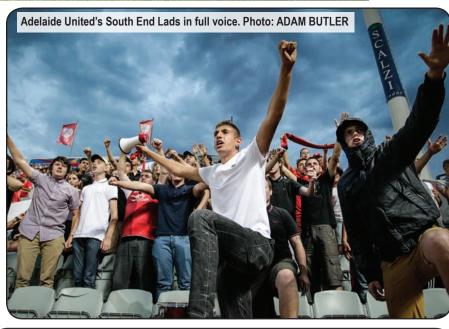
Les Shorrock's Action Packed Picture Page



















Heart Line Up

1.Clint Bolton (Gk)
3. Cameron Edwards
4.Simon Colosimo

4.Simon Colosimo
5.Fred (c)
6. Patrick Gerhardt
8. Matthew Thompson
9.Dylan Macallister
10. Josip Tadic
11. Richard Garcia
13. Jonatan Germano
14. Golgol Mebrahtu
15. David Williams
16. Aziz Behich
17. Jason Hoffman
18. David Vrankovic
19. Ben Garuccio

18. David Vrankovic
19. Ben Garuccio
20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
21. Steven Gray
22. Nick Kalmar
24. Sam Mitchinson
25. Jeremy Walker
26. Ersin Kaya
27. Stefan Mauk
Ins: 15. David Williams
(returns from suspension), 3

(returns from suspension), 3. Cameron Edwards, 18. David Vrankovic, 19. Ben Garuccio, 21. Steven Gray, 24. Sam Mitchinson, 26. Ersin Kaya

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 23.Mate Dug-andzic (broken foot – season) 31. Vince Grella (fitness)

Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United

By Ian Syson

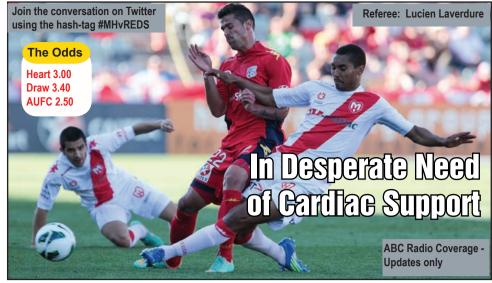
Melbourne Heart will take on the high-ish flying (albeit under the radar) Adelaide team at the Bubbledome of Friday night. The Heart's first home game after the departure of Michael Marrone will see the reintroduction of exciting Tasmanian right back Jeremy Walker to the 6000 faithful at AAMI Stadium and the return from suspension of David Williams.

It's a prospect that should have me more excited than I feel. Williams is an enigma of a player.

He attempts and scores spectacular goals and delivers glorious crosses but is prone to moments of madness and wayward decision making. I guess that is a little intriguing. Any excitement over Walker is more slow burn. He will be a good player and the shame of it is that Heart fans will mainly see his professional development and not his matura-

Moreover, going on recent form Heart will most likely find a way to tease and excite its fans while dominating the opposition before conceding two goals late in the game to either lose it or give supporters palpitations before squeaking away with a draw or a narrow win.

And there's simply nothing about Adelaide that gets me hyperventilating (though Gaucho's Argentinian restaurant near the Central Market has its attractions). Yeah, they have a few good footballing South Americans; yeah, they are coached by Graham Cornes' favouFri Jan 18 AAMI Park 7:30pm



rite soccer player; yeah they are the competition's equal highest scoring team; yeah, they have a pretty good away strip. But there's something about them that just says 'Meh!' I have been uninspired by Adelaide too many times to expect anything otherwise. Archie Thompson broke them and (Asian performances notwithstanding) they are yet to regenerate a convincing A League mojo. Perhaps Jeronimo could produce something that might force a rethink. He looks good when he stays vertical and so let's hope he does just that (both stay upright and force a re-think).

Perhaps more interest will lie in off-field events. Will Grella get on the bench at any point this season? Even half fit he would have an impact, allowing Garcia to play more comfortably up forward. But really? Where is he? What's the timetable of re-emergence? Or will we in the press box continue only to be entertained by his window thumping in the room next door for the remainder of the season.

A related issue is the crowd. Cardiac support will not grow without a sense of team stability and quality. A fit and functioning Grella would help to generate both. It also remains to be seen how the recent fan-initiated OneMelburnian campaign works in its goal of getting Heart bums on bubbledome seats. Craig Foster recently praised the Heart fans' passion and support

(and stamina) after the Roar game. Their core will inevitably diminish if game after game they are left to chant among themselves without a feeling of broad support in the stadium.

Back to the game: A few statistics: Heart have only beaten Adelaide once and not for over two years; both teams are in the upper portion of the goals scored table this season (Adelaide 27, Heart 21); Adelaide (16 against) has the second most frugal defence after Western Sydney while the Heart is slightly more leaky (23 against). The stats point to a 3-2 win to the Barrel Boys.

Kiss of Death Heart 2-3 Adelaide Utd



Adelaide Utd Line Up 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)

2.Osama Malik 4.Jon McKain 5.lain Fyfe 6.Cassio 7.Zenon Caravella 10.Dario Vidosic 12.Antony Golec 14.Cameron Watson 16.Daniel Bowles 17.lain Ramsay 18.Fabian Barbiero 19.Jake Barker-Daish 20.Paul Izzo (gk) 21.Jeronimo Neumann 23.Evan Kostopoulos

one to be omitted

In: Jon McKain (promoted), Zenon Caravella (promoted), Jake Barker-Daish (promoted)

Out: Bruce Djite (groin – 2-3 weeks), Awer Mabil (returns to NYL)

Unavailable: Nigel Boogaard (hamstring – 1 week), Marcelo Carrusca (groin – 2 weeks), Fabio Ferreira (groin – 2-3 weeks)

Sydney FC Line Up

2. Sebastian Ryall

3. Fabio 6. Jason Culina

7. Brett Emerton

9. Paul Reid 10. Alessandro Del Piero 12. Blake Powell

15. Terry McFlynn 17. Terry Antonis 18. Trent McClenahan

20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk) 21. Yairo Yau 22. Ali Abbas

23. Rhyan Grant 26. Peter Triantis

28. Aaron Calver

29. Joel Griffiths 33. Matthew Nash (gk)

*three to be omitted

Ins: Paul Reid (promoted), Joel Griffiths (new signing)

Unavailable: Pascal Boss-chaart (heel, season), Ivan Necevski (ankle, 2 weeks),Nathan Sherlock (hamstring, 2 weeks), Kruno Lovrek (knee, 8 weeks), Adam Griffiths (knee, 1 week), Joel Chianese (thigh, 2 weeks)

A-LEAGUE

Sydney FC v Wellington Phoenix

Sat Jan 19 Allianz Stadium 5:30pm



competition which means a victory is vital for both, while a loss would prove almost fatal to their finals chances. Ninth-placed Sydney at least

These two sides are propping up the rest of the A-League

By FFA

come into this encounter in winning form, having come from behind to snatch a 2-1 win over the Melbourne Heart last weekend. Experienced striker Joel Griffiths is finally available after joining the club last month and he could be drafted straight into the starting

There was bad news for defender Pascal Bosschaart this week, with the Dutchman ruled out for the rest of the season due to a heel injury. The Phoenix are in their worst run of form in recent memory, last Sunday's 2-0 home loss to Western Sydney the club's third on the trot.

Ricki Herbert's side are badly missing the likes of Paul Ifill and Manny Muscat and will be desperate to get the pair back on the pitch as soon as possible. These sides have already met twice this season for one win apiece, with the Sky Blues clinching the most recent game 2-1 in Wellington in what was coach Frank Farina's first victory.

The Big Issue

Sydney: The club was quick to say it was a non-issue and they had moved on but the on-field

spat between Alessandro Del Piero and Ali Abbas is something Farina needs to ensure he gets on top of stamps out for good.

using the hash-tag #SYDvNIX

There is nothing wrong with players showing disappointment at themselves or with each other if things are going wrong but if it's allowed to fester for a while it will do no good for team morale or performance.

Wellington: Ricki Herbert has done a superb job with Wellington in the last few seasons but the experienced coach faces a huge challenge in coming weeks.

Confidence must be at an all-time low among the players who have lost three games on the trot and propping up the rest of the competition. Herbert needs to ensure the side get that confidence and enjoyment back in their game before it's too late.

The Gamebreaker

Brett Emerton: The Socceroos midfielder has struggled for consistency this season but with some important matches to come. expect Emerton to lift his game. The 33-year-old has already showed how important he is to Sydney's chances of resurrecting their season, scoring vital goals in both of the club's last two home matches. There may still be 10 games to

go after this one but it's got to the

stage where defeat for either side in this clash would just about end their finals hopes.

Referee: Kris Griffith-Jones

Farina said last week his side had to win their next two home games to stay alive and after (just) seeing off the Heart they will be confident of completing that goal. There is never too much between these two sides as the head-tohead record suggests but with Sydney now having a formidable focal point in attack it should give them the edge.

Kiss of Death Sydney FC 2-1 Phoenix



Phoenix Line Up

1.Mark Paston (GK) 3. Tony Lochhead 6. Alex Smith 7. Leo Bertos

8. Paul Ifill

9. Benjamin Totori 10. Stein Huysegems 11. Jeremy Brockie 12. Tyler Boyd 16. Louis Fenton

17. Vince Lia 18. Ben Sigmund

20. Glen Moss (GK) 21. Dani Sanchez 22. Andrew Durante (C)

Ins: 8. Paul Ifill (returns from injury).

Outs: Cameron Lindsay (omitted), Griffin McMaster (injury replacement period ended)

Unavailable: 2. Manny Muscat (suspended)



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Westfield CONTROL OPTUS





Mathew Ryan (Gk) Daniel McBreen

2. Daniel McBreen
3. Joshua Rose
4. Pedj Bojic
5. Zachary Anderson
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
7. John Hutchinson (c)
8. Adriano Pellegrino
11. Oliver Bozanic
13. Brent Griffiths
14. Michael McGlinchey
15. Brad McDonald
16. Trent Sainsbury
17. Anthony Caceres

17. Anthony Caceres
18. Nick Montgomery
19. Mitchell Duke
20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)

21. Mile Sterjovski four to be omitted

In: 8. Adriano Pellegrino (promoted), 15. Brad McDonald (promoted), 16. Trent Sainsbury (returns from suspension), 17. Anthony Caceres (promoted), 19. Mitchell Duke (promoted)

Out: 9. Bernie Ibini (overseas -Club Brugge)

Unavailable: 10. Tomas Rogic (overseas – Celtic FC), 22. James Oates (ankle – 2

CC Mariners v Newcastle Jets

Sat Jan 19 Bluetongue Stadium 7:45pm

Bv Adrian Deans

When you consider the way the Melbourne derby and now the Sydney derby have developed in recent times, it behoves a reconsideration of the F3 derby - does it truly deserve derby status under the new conditions?

The Melbourne derby is now into its third season and has become one of the great events not just in Australian football, but in Australian sport. The feeling between the fans is white hot (in a good way) and tickets are like gold. Both teams seem inspired to put on a spectacle every time.

In less than one season the Sydney derby has become another special calendar event with Parramatta Stadium sold out for Episode One, Allianz Stadium packed for Episode Two, and both teams terrified to lose. Oddly enough, the away side won both encounters so bragging rights will be riding on Episode Three.

These games are eagerly anticipated not just by the relevant players and fans, but by all A-League fans and even general sports fans. So what about the F3 derby?

Could anyone outside Mariners and Jets fans give a rat's? Neutral football fans (of course) will take an interest in the game, but they won't be engaged by its derby nature in the way they are with Sydney or Melbourne.

As for the game itself, the Jets will



know this is a very good time to beard the Mariners in their den. They've not been playing well but managed to beat Brisbane last outing. This will give them confidence to travel south and take on a Mariners team seriously distracted by potential departures. Tom Rogic will be eligible to play but must be doubtful as he'll be two days back in the country after trialling with Celtic and (in all likelihood) playing against Steaua Bucharest midweek. Mat Ryan's head will be spinning from his various offers, Bernie Ibini may, or may not be back in the country and several other players are weighing up their futures as lucrative offers pour in

from more cashed up leagues.

The Mariners were rubbish in the first half against Victory last round and lucky to get a point after a much improved second half performance. Graham Arnold must be tearing his hair out trying to keep the players focussed - all this after he passed up the chance to move to Sydney for a lot more

His choice was to stay with the good players and it really is to his credit that so many Mariners are in demand. It would not surprise at all to see him sell half his team and then successfully bring through another three or four players from the table-topping Youth League

team. Creating household names seems to be Arnold's business these days.

But will he get to enjoy a memorable, pulsating derby day atmosphere that makes the whole country sit up and take notice? He might have to move to Sydney

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets - published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. www.mrcleansheets.com

> **Kiss of Death Mariners 2-2 Jets**



Jets Line Up

Ben Kennedy (gk) Scott Neville Josh Mitchell

James Brown Ruben Zadkovich Emile Heskey

11. Connor Chapman 12. Josh Brillante

13. Sam Gallaway

14. Taylor Regan 15. Craig Goodwin 16. Jobe Wheelhouse

17. James Virgili 18. Jacob Pepper 19. Michael Bridges

20. Mark Birighitti (gk) 22. Adam Taggart 23. Ryan Griffiths 25. Mitch Coper 26. Andrew Hoole

*five to be omitted

ns: Josh Mitchell (returns from injury)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Ben Kantarovski (knee), Dominik Ritter (ham-string)



Glory Line Up

1.Danny Vukovic (gk) 3.Bas van den Brink 5.Steve Pantelidis 6.Nick Ward 9.Shane Smeltz 10.Liam Miller 11.Adrian Zahra 12.Ryo Nagai 13.Travis Dodd 14.Steven McGarry 15.Brandon O'Neill 17.Chris Harold 18.Jesse Makarounas

19.Josh Risdon

30 Lewis Italiano (gk)

*four to be omitted Ins: 11.Adrian Zahra, 19.Josh Risdon, 22.Ndumba Makeche (all promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 23.Michael Thwaite (calf - 1 weeks)

Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory

Sat Jan 19 nib Stadium 10:00pm

By Andrew Bishara

The first forty-five minutes of Melbourne Victory's match against the Central Coast Mariners was by the far, their best, most dazzling display of football they have produced this year. Ange Postecoglou said it himself:

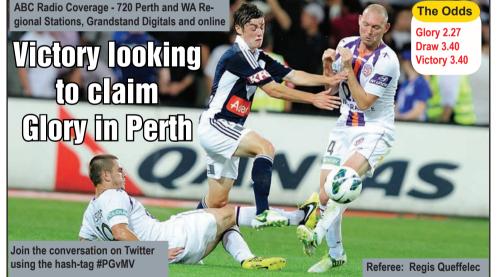
"We were outstanding in the first half and probably just didn't finish it off as we should have - the game should have really been all over". And he's right; the game should have been over at half time, such was his side's dominance.

"This team is still evolving and I think maybe we're lacking a bit of self-belief as to how good we can be," said Postecoglou. "I think once we realise that, and hopefully today is that day, once we start dominating teams we can kill them off as well."

In that regard, that's what Victory needs to do: consistently perform at their highest peak and blow away teams. If they could do that against the table-topping Mariners, than surely that could produce the same against the Glory? Perth has been a shadow of the

team that made the Grand Final. "Inconsistent" is the best word to describe the team: in certain moments they look like an allcommanding side, the next, a collective mess.

Win, draw, loss, draw, loss is how the form guide reads for the



Glory's last five matches. Their mainly problem is, that defensively, they aren't as solid as they were last season. Conceding soft goals is a big problem for any team, but if the team has the firepower to blow away the opposition, then there is always that chance they can snatch a point, or even win.

Perth seemed to have lost that. As I mentioned in my half-term report, the over-reliance on Shane Smeltz for goals is a problem, considering the lack of other options both in the forward line and midfield.

Which brings into question, why Ian Ferguson didn't make a move for Michael Owen. Yes, he's old, out of form, but when given the chance he does provide goals. Imagine the fear in the opposition when Owen is brought on from the bench?

Sitting on the edge of the finals, the Glory knows that this week's game against the Victory is major battle. "The Victory game is a must-win," said Captain Jacob Burns.

"They've been in very good form and are sitting above us in the table, so it's an opportunity to test ourselves, I think, against one of the best attacking teams in the league at this moment"

"We've got to be very mindful of the pace of Thompson and Rojas

up front," said Burns. "We've seen the combination time and time

While Rojas and Archie will be the target, the Glory best keeping an eye out for Marco Flores, who has lifted his game since Gus Finkler's injury, now that he's the team's creative fulcrum. Shane Smeltz has returned to his form that brought him admirers with four goals in five games, but will be hard to see anything but Victory snatching the win.

Kiss of Death Glory 1-2 Victory



Victory Line Up

1. Tando Velaphi (gk)

2. Matthew Foschini

3. Adama Traore 5. Mark Milligan

6. Leigh Broxham

8. Jonathan Bru

10. Archie Thompson 11. Marco Rojas

13. Diogo Ferreira

16. Theo Markelis

17. Jimmy Jeggo 21. Spase Dilevski 23. Adrian Leijer

24.Nick Ansell

25. Luke O'dea

26. Andrew Nabbout 39. Nathan Coe (gk) *three to be omitted

Ins: 2. Matthew Foschini, 16. Theo Markelis, 17. Jimmy

Jeggo, 25.Luke O'Dea (All Promoted) Outs: 14. Billy Celeski (Sus-

pended – 1 Match)

Unavailable: 7. Gui Finkler (Knee - Season)



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Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (gk)
2. Matt Smith (c)
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Murdocca
11. Ben Halloran
12. Julius Doe

Jade North James Donachie Mitch Nichols Luke Brattan

20. Matt Acton (gk)
21. James Meyer
22. Thomas Broich
25. George Lambadaridis
*two to be omitted

In: 12. Julius Doe (new signing), 13. Jade North (new signing), 18. Luke Brattan (promoted), 25. George Lambadaridis (promoted)

Out: 6. Erik Paartalu (trans-ferred), 24. Nick Fitzgerald (omitted)

Unavailable: Jack Hingert (hip injury – 4-6 weeks), Do Dong-Hyun (knee – 2-3 weeks), Henrique (hip injury

.

Brisbane Roar v W Syd Wanderers

Sun Jan 20 Suncorp Stadium 5:00pm

By Jarrod Ellis

Few would have predicted back in September that come January 2013 West Sydney Wanderers would be sitting pretty in the top-four whilst Brisbane languished outside of the finals places. But that is exactly what's come to pass and with the Wanderers having won both previous encounters between the two sides it has to be argued that the A-League new boys have the upper hand over the Roar and come into the match this Sunday as favourites to gain the three-points.

Despite a promising start under Mike Mulvey Brisbane have continued to look a disjointed, uninterested outfit and have lost their last three on the trot.

Defensive lapses and a lack of cutting edge in the final third of the pitch remain the cause of Brisbane's poor results and coming up against the team with the best defence in the league along with generating the most shots on goal this season the Roar will need to find form or will likely make it three losses from three attempts against the Wander-

There has been a great deal of activity at the Roar over the past week, players in, players out, team crisis meetings, a far cry from the perfect preparation for a team short on confidence and form.

The one positive to emerge for Brisbane this week is the arrival of Jade North, a capable, experienced partner in central defence for Matt



Smith that the team has lacked since the departure of Mohammed Adnan in the offseason. He's expected to start against Wanderers and his presence could be crucial as it will be that first match post-Erik Paartalu for the club, an ever present in defensive midfield over the past three years.

Paartalu has of course left the club to join Tianjin Teda, leaving a significant hole behind that has no obvious fix. If the formation of the team remains the same then either Luke Brattan or Massimo Murdocca are the most likely candidates to step into Paartalu's role but neither player possesses a similar skill set to 'the Viking'.

West Sydney provides a stark contrast to their opponents and is without a doubt the success story of the A-League this season.

Having lost only once in their past seven matches the Wanderers are aiming for their fourth consecutive away win this Sunday, no small feat for a club that didn't exist seven months ago.

Having possessed a solid defence since Day 1 of the season the Wanderers have looked increasingly comfortable going forward in recent weeks. This comes down largely to a natural familiarisation process between the players and Tony Popovich coming to fully understand his squad. Shinji Ono has been a

pivotal contributor in recent weeks as he's gained full match fitness and given Brisbane's newfound lack of a defensive midfielder the skilful Japanese international could find plenty of space to operate come kick-off.

Despite the disparity on the table and the upheaval at Brisbane this fixture should be another tight one between these two sides. With only two goals scored in 180 minutes of action between them so far there shouldn't be too much in it but should Wanderers take an early lead its difficult to see the Roar fighting their way back into the match.

Kiss of Death Roar 1-1 Wanderers



Wanderers Line Up

.Ante Covic (GK)
. Shannon Cole
. Adam D'Apuzzo
. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
. Michael Beauchamp
. Jerome Polenz
. Labinot Haliti
. Mateo Poljak
. Dino Kresinger

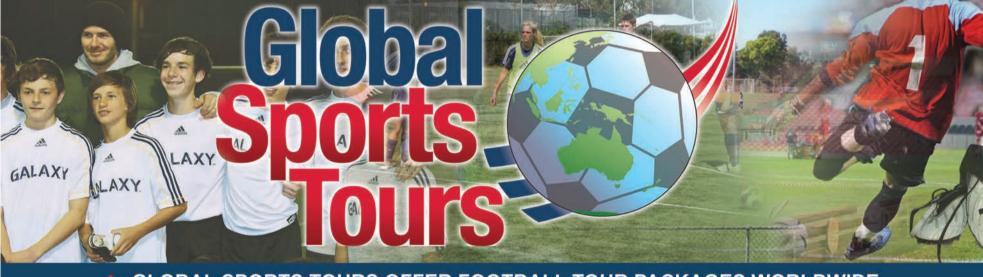
9. Dino Kresinger 10. Aaron Mooy 11. Tarek Elrich

11. Tarek Elrich
13. Joey Gibbs
14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
15. Reece Caira
16. Rocky Visconte
17. Youssouf Hersi
18. lacopo La Rocca
19. Mark Bridge
20. Jerrad Tyson (GK)
21. Shinji Ono
23. Jason Trifiro
*six to be omitted

Ins: 15. Reece Caira, 11. Tarek Elrich, 13. Joey Gibbs (all pro-moted), 23. Jason Trifiro (back from suspension), 9. Dino Kres-inger (returns from injury), 16. Rocky Visconte (new signing)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Tahj Minniecon (foot indefinite)



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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR





Jweekly



Back Row (Left to right): Youssouf Hersi, Jason Trifiro, Joey Gibbs, Iacopo La Rocca, Mateo Poljak, Shinji Ono, Jerrad Tyson, Ante Covic, Aaron Mooy,
Labinot Haliti, Jerome Polenz, Dino Kresigner, Kwabena Appiah-Kubi, Tahj Minniecon, Reece Caira.

Front Row (Left to Right): Ante Milicic (Assistant Coach), Shannon Cole, Adam D'Apuzzo, Nikolai Topor-Stanley, Tony Popovic (Head Coach), Michael Beauchamp (Captain), Mark Bridge, Tarek Elrich, Ron Corry (Goalkeeper Coach).

Planet Football

Bosnia



By Alvaro Rodriguez

NAME: Bosnia & Herzegovina CAPITAL: Sarajevo POPULATION: (2011 approx.) 3,839,737

CONFEDERATION: UEFA INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Runners-up 1997 Dunhill Cup(held in Malaysia), 2001 Millennium Cup(held in India), 2001 Merdeka Tournament(held in Malaysia), 2001 LG Cup(held in Iran). FIFA WORLD RANKING: 27th

EURO FINALS APPEARANCES: WORLD CUP APPEARANCES:

WHO ARE YA?

Situated in the Balkan region of southeast Europe, the history of what is now the joint-republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina stretches back to the Neolithic Age, after which Celtic clans settled the area before its subsequent habitation by Slavic clans in the 6th Century AD. These Slav settlers established a sovereign 'banate' which evolved into the Kingdom of Bosnia by the 1400s. The distinctly-Slavic character of the region and its people was seemingly threatened by the expansionist overtures of the Ottoman Empire and its devotion to the spread of Islam - the legacy of the ensuing adventurism into Bosnia endures to this day, linguistically and culturally.

The Ottomans were in control of Bosnia and a considerable overall influence on the region for nearly 400 years, before Bosnia's annexation into the Austro-Hungarian Em-



Man City's Edin Džeko celebrates a goal in Bosnian colours.

pire in the second half of the 19th

Century. Like most of the realm's

non-Magyar/Germanic subjects,

Bosnians yearned for total sover-

eignty although certain schools of

Serb-nationalist thought instead

pushed for Bosnia to be swallowed

up into a future independent Serb

state. The decline of the Empire in

the face of changing times proved

the catalyst for the Bosnian capital

Sarajevo's playing host to one of

the defining events in human his-

tory: the assassination of Archduke

Franz Ferdinand by a band of radi-

cal Bosnian-Serb separatists known

as the Black Hand on 28th June

1914 - the spark that ignited the

At war's end, the Empire collapsed

and Bosnia along with most of the

present-day Balkan states was in-

corporated into the Kingdom of

Yugoslavia, which would in turn

be superseded by the Socialist

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia set

up by Marshal Tito after WWII. It

was in the wake of the fall of com-

munist Yugoslavia and eastern Eu-

rope in the late '80s that the region

and Bosnia in particular - would

be plunged into a hellish civil war.

Radical Serb extremists sought to

annex Serb-populated parts of Bos-

nia and eradicate any and all opposi-

tion to this cause (likewise, Bosnian

Croat radicals sought to unite their

controlled territories with Croatia

First World War into being.

proper), and Sarajevo - a city that had hosted the Winter Olympics just 10 years prior - was left prostrate by fighting and anarchy. In the wake of the conflict's end

the country has striven to achieve reconciliation between her several ethnic groups and neighbouring countries party to the conflict, and its serious push for NATO and European Union memberships demonstrates how far the once-beleaguered nation has come in such a relatively short span of time.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?

Bosnia-Herzegovina joined FIFA in 1996 at the end of the civil war, and were grouped with fellow-Balkans Croatia and Slovenia plus Greece and then-reigning Euro champs Denmark in European Group 1 of France '98 WC qualifiers as their maiden stab at an international tournament. The Bosnians, already boasting young gun Hasan Salihamidžic managed just 3 wins and no draws, finishing second-last on 9 points ahead of Slovenia. Their maiden Euro qualifying campaign for 2000 wasn't much more fruitful although they finished seven points shy of playoff-qualifiers Scotland in Group 9, and things got no better for their bid to reach Korea/Japan 2002, finishing just above lastplaced Liechtenstein in qualifying



after a goal for Juventus in Italy.



Just in case the GPS isn't working...

2004 were dealt a cruel blow when they failed to beat Denmark in their last match of Group 2 - a win would have seen the Bosnians qualify directly for the finals; alas they missed out on the playoff spot too thanks to Norway and Romania both being a point ahead. Germany 2006 qualifying again saw them ruing lost chances, finishing 4 points shy of playoff qualifiers Spain in a solid group bar uber-minnows San Marino. Euro 2008 came to nought, all the more embarrassing given their strong 5-2 win against Malta in the first game, but stage-fright against group favourites Greece and Turkev proved their undoing, as did a shock 1-0 loss to Moldova. South Africa 2010 quals signified a new corner for the Bosnians, helmed by veteran Croatian gaffer Ciro Blaževic and boasting a clutch of young talent such as Edin Džeko, then with Bundesliga outfit VfL Wolfsburg. The Bosnians finished second in Group 5 behind eventual WC winners Spain, thus progressing to the play-offs against Portugal, but Cristiano Ronaldo and co. shaded the Bosnians 2-0

Their fortunes in reaching Euro

In a twist of fate, the Bosnians snared the play-off spot in Group D of Euro 2012 qualifying only to come up against, you guessed it,

on aggregate, bringing the dream

Portugal again. The Bosnians held the Portuguese to a nil-all stalemate in the first leg, thus firing up hopes of an historic upset but alas. Portugal ran riot in the return leg in Lisbon, battering the Bosnians 6-2.

BIG CLUBS

The national league is the BH Telecom Premier League, and its traditional-powerhouse clubs include FK Borac Banja Luka and FK Velež Mostar plus the capital-city triumvirate of FK Željeznicar Sarajevo, FK Olimpic Sarajevo and FK Sarajevo.

REP YOUR COLORS

Nicknamed either Zmajevi(The Dragons) or Zlatni Ljiljani(The Golden Lilies), the Bosnian NT wears all-blue with white trims, the away is inverted. As for the clubs. Banja Luka wear the kit of the Serbian NT(reflecting the club's ethnic roots). Mostar wear red tops and socks with white shorts, Željeznicar Sarajevo wear a blue shirt and socks with white shorts, Olimpic wear all-green with white trims whilst FK Sarajevo wear all-maroon with white trims.

MATCHWINNERS

Hasan Salihamidžic remains the country's greatest-ever player, a midfield legend who made his name in the '90s plying his trade in Germany for Hamburg and then Bayern Munich before moving to

www.goalweekly.com

Italy and spending 5 years with the might of Juventus, before returning to Germany to play for VfL Wolfsburg - ironically the club at which his heir apparent, Edin Džeko made his name before moving to Manchester City. Salihamidžic's career honours list includes 9 Bundesliga titles, 4 German Cups, a Champions League winners' and runners-up medal as well as the 2001 Intercontinental/World Club

The youngblood Edin Džeko, a tall powerful striker began in the youth ranks of Željeznicar before playing for the senior team and following a 2-year stint at Czech side Teplice, moved to Wolfsburg where he racked up 111 games and 66 goals hence Manchester City's successful bid for his services in 2011, where so far he has amassed 26 goals in 64 games for Roberto Mancini's starstudded side.

SO WHAT NOW?

With Džeko fast establishing himself as one of the rising stars of world football by virtue of his club exploits, naturally the onus will be on him to emulate this form for his country - with Greece and Slovakia as their only credible rivals in European Group G of Brazil 2014 qualifying, pressure is indeed high on the Bosnians to secure a maiden WC/ major tournament finals berth.

Nut-Meg Dept.

Boo's World SUMMER



By Mark Boric

Did Sydney FC bring out marquee man Alessandro Del Piero to play football or to participate in MMA action? It may be the latter if the rumours of a fight with Ali Abbas in the player's tunnel are true. To cash in though, they need to get the fights out of the tunnels and into a cage where everyone can watch them.

With the signing of Tiago Calvano as an injury replacement for Pascal Bosschaart. Sydney FC could be adding to

has proven himself one of the finer exponents of elbow use in the A-League, and may have been brought in to face the winner of ADP v Abbas if indeed SFC stands for Sydney Fight

Naming your club Heart doesn't mean you automatically have it in abundance, and the red Melbourne team can join the The Tin Man from The Wizard of Oz in the queue for one. Too much back-passing eventually brings them undone, they cannot handle the pressure they invite.

It occurred to me whilst watching Soccer AM on Sunday that Jaimee Rodgers and Emily O'Brien from TAB Sportsbet had let me down. It was the annual Dance-Off of the show's crew. and despite the show putting up some odds on the outcome, the Sportsbet girls had failed to fully promote this wagering option. Sure enough it was Rocket, a previous winner on several occasions, who triumphed. It could their cage fighting ranks. Tiago have been a good leg in many



Going off like a Rocket.....

multis over the weekend, but Australian punters were left in the dark.

When Australia left Oceania for the Asian Football Confederation, I didn't know so many local footballers would feel compelled to head other Asian leagues. Petar Franjic to Bangkok Glass, Erik Paartalu to Tianjin Teda and Michael Marrone to Shanghai Shenxin are not likely to be the only ones dismissed from the Technical

at the International Departures terminals of the major airports. It's a fully fledged exodus.

Brisbane Roar may as well sell their whole squad to Asian clubs, because their season is done. In the Sunshine State, being a shadow of your former selves is probably even more

Fox Sports must have missed what got Graham Arnold



Or are you just Baldrick in disguise ...?

Area in Launceston on Saturday. Certainly what was shown was at the lesser end of the coach going nuts scale, the opposite end to what leaders in the field like George Katsakis at Heidelberg United get up to.

The 2013 World Handball Championships are underway in Spain. Uruguay failed to qualify, which is why Luis Suarez was free to play for Liverpool against Manchester United on Sunday.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

A-League Dance Off Champion

Central Coast Mariners Melbourne Victory Adelaide United 5.50 West Sydney Wanderers 9.50 **Brisbane Roar** 10.00 **Newcastle Jets** 15.00 Sydney FC 15.00 **Perth Glory** 15.00 **Wellington Phoenix** 26.00 Melbourne Heart

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16 Goal! Weekly - Friday 18th January 2013

Victory Serve Mariners Some Eight Is Enough

By Daniel Quinn

There were plenty of goals in Round 12 of the National Youth League (NYL) as there were wins for the Melbourne Heart, Sydney FC, Adelaide United, Perth Glory and the Melbourne Victory who smashed the leaders, the Central Coast Mariners.

Sydney FC have claimed city bragging rights after defeating arch rivals Cromer Park on Saturday morning. Mitch Mallia got the Sky Blues off to a great start simply finishing on the

rebound after just 10 minutes. Jared Lum then doubled Sydney's lead from the spot after Wanderers 'keeper Aaron Liddell fouled Mallia inside the box.

Western Sydney, though, did fight their way back into the game, although only briefly, as Zac Elrich outpaced the Sydney defence and neatly finished into the bottom corner.

Mallia secured the three points with his second pouncing on a poor back pass before slotting into an empty net Then Terry Antonis added a fourth with three minutes left.

On Sunday morning Perth Glory and the Newcastle Jets played out a thrilling contest that finished 6-4 in favour of the Glory.

Chris Harold opened the scoring from the spot on 10 minutes after Harry O'Brien was fouled by Jets 'keeper Ben Kennedy.

But Bernardo Ribeiro thrashed a strike into the top corner three minutes later to equalize for the Jets. Just after the half-hour mark Marko Jesic gave Newcastle the lead with a quick fire double with two low finishes from the edge of the box. However after the break Perth fought back as Jack Glisby stunned the Jets with a brilliant free kick.

After the hour Borbor Sam terrifically curled into the net moments after coming on to make it 3-3. With the momentum Perth took

the lead as Riley Woodcock's effort drifted over 'Jets substitute 'keeper Nicholas Harnett. Adrian Zahra secured the points



Andrew Nabbout goes down after contact with Mariners' Mitchell Duke (right). Mathew Foschini (left) and Brad McDonald are also on the scene. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

heading home, before Moses Kalau poked the sixth to make it 6-3. Jesic though was given the opportunity to complete his hat trick from the spot and did just that with two minutes left on the clock.

In Canberra the Melbourne Heart defeated the AIS 3-1 thanks to goals from Ben Garuccio, Josh Groenewald and Nicholas Epifano. Garuccio, a Young Socceroo, hit

Heart's first emphatically finishing at the back post after 37 minutes. With twenty minutes left Groe newald's diving header hit the back of the net after the ball cannoned off the crossbar.

But three minutes after scoring their

series as the form team.

Adelaide suffered a 3-1 home loss

The Glory's Kate Gill bagged a double and set up a third for Mari-

anna Tabain heaping pressure on

Melbourne for their trip to New-

Sydney FC edged into the fourth and final semi-final berth with their

3-2 victory over Western Sydney

Wanderers lifting the Sky Blues

Swedish midfielder Louise Fors

twice pulled the Wanderers level

only for substitute Nicola Bolger to

give the Sky Blues a win with seven

minutes remaining, and set-up an-

other potentially epic finals clash

with old rivals Brisbane Roar.

past Canberra.

against Perth Glory a day earlier.

second, the Heart conceded as Liam Rose slid his finish past Heart 'keeper Chris Maynard.

However the Red and White hit back soon after through Epifano who finished nicely after some poor AIS marking.

In Melbourne the Melbourne Victory demolished the table topping Central Coast Mariners 8-1 at SS Anderson Reserve.

Melbourne got to a stunning start and took a massive seven-goal lead after just 39 minutes.

Jimmy Jeggo slotted into the bottom corner past Mariners 'keeper David Bradasevic after just 19 seconds, before Andrew Nabbout tapped in from

a neat John Buceto cutback Buceto capped off his sensational start with the third with an emphatic

finish, before Luke O'Dea added the fourth coolly slotting past Bradasevic. The Victory were rewarded with their fifth as a super Nabbout cross was smashed home on the half volley

Nabbout sent in another quality cross picking out O'Dea who turned in the sixth completing his double on 30

Central Coast couldn't keep the ball either, as Jimmy Jeggo won the ball back in midfield and thumped his strike into the bottom Chris Cristaldo added an eighth after

the break at the back post, before Mitchell Duke scored a late consolidation for the visitors after rounding Victory 'keeper Luke Radonich. Adelaide United eased past Brisbane Roar with a 3-0 win thanks to a brace to Sergio van Dijk.

After squandering their chances the Reds finally took the lead on 30 minutes as van Dijk simply finished from a goalmouth scramble

The Dutchman doubled the lead and completed his brace seconds later turning in on the half-volley. Jacob Melling then secured the three points with six minutes left firing in the third after his initial effort was

Round 12 Results

Adelaide United 3 (van Dijk 30, 31, Melling 84) Brisbane Roar 0

Melbourne Victory 8 (J.Jeggo 1, 39, Nabbout 3, Buceto 9, O'Dea 15, 30, Pain 29, Cristaldo 66) Central Coast 1 (Duke 76)

AIS 1 (Rose 73) Melbourne Heart 3 (Garuccio 37, Groenewald 70, Epifano 75)

Newcastle Jets 4 (Ribeiro 13, Jesic 32, Perth Glory 6 (Harold 10pen, Glisby 50, Sam 61, Woodcock 68, Zahra 78,

Sydney FC 4 (Mallia 8m, 80m, Lum 24m, Western Sydney Wanderers 1

NYL Standings

Round 13 Fixtures

Melbourne Heart v Western Sydney John Cain Memorial Res, Thornbury Saturday 19 January KO 3:00 PM

10 AIS

Brisbane Roar v Newcastle Jets Goodwin Park, Yeronga Saturday 19 January KO 4:00 PM

Sunday 20 January KO 3:00 PM Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory

Central Coast Mariners v AIS

Cromer Park, Dee Why Sunday 20 January KO 5:00 PM

Perth Glory v Adelaide United Intiga Stadium, Inglewood Sunday 20 January KO 8:00 PM

All KO times ae AEDT

W-League Wrap

www.goalweekly.com



Roar Wraps Up Minor Premiership In Style

By FFA

The Westfield W-League regular season concluded in thrilling fashion amid a flurry of goals as Brisbane Roar claimed the premiership after topping the standings at the end of 12

Brisbane's remarkable 5-1 win over Canberra United ensured 2012 Champions missed out on a finals berth leaving the Roar to face rivals Sydney FC next weekend in an identical rematch of last season's semi-final

The other semi-final will feature second-placed Perth Glory hosting their maiden home finals match against Melbourne Victory with dates to be announced on Monday. It was Brisbane that stole the show with the stunning scoreline a record defeat for the champions.

The in-form Tameka Butt led the way with a hattrick as Brisbane dominated the 2012 Grand Final rematch in hot and humid condi-

Melbourne Victory, like Perth, were looking for their inaugural home finals match but stumbled at the final hurdle with a 3-3 draw against Newcastle Jets on Sunday. Emily Van Egmond scored a double, including a late equaliser from the penalty spot, as the Jets twice came from behind.

The point ensured the Jets moved off the bottom, going ahead of Adelaide United on goal difference. The draw means that Victory will travel to Perth next weekend to take on the second placed Glory in a knockout final with the winner to qualify for the Grand Final.

While the result may not have been ideal, Melbourne have only lost a single match since Round Two and will head into the finals



Tamika Butt celebrates her third goal to put the game beyond doubt. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND



Tamika But never stopped attacking the Canberra goal. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND



Tamika Butt takes her penalty as Mackenize Arnolds anticipates. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

Round 12 Results

Western Sydney Wanderers 2 (Louise Sydney FC 3 (Caitlin Foord 9', Samantha Kerr 39', Nicola Bolger 83')

Tameka Butt 38'/41' (pen)/71', Emily Canberra United 1 (Kristen Mewis 45+4')

Brisbane Roar 5 (Katrina Gorry 12',

Adelaide United 1 (Rachael Quigley 52') Perth Glory 3 (Kate Gill 18', 65', Marianna

Newcastle Jets 3 (Jasmine Courtenay 40', Emily Van Egmond 42', 84' pen) Melbourne Victory 3 (Amy Jackson 3', Enza Barilla 30', Hayley Crawford 60'

W-League Standings

PWDLFADE 12 8 2 2 28 15 13 26 1 Brisbane Roa 12 7 3 2 34 20 14 24 2 Perth Glory 3 Melbourne Victory 12 7 2 3 26 14 12 23 12 6 2 4 30 24 6 20 4 Sydney FC 12 5 3 4 25 20 5 18 5 Canberra United 6 WS Wanderers 12 4 1 7 19 23 -4 13 12 1 3 8 15 33 -18 6 7 Newcastle Jets 12 2 0 10 12 40 -28 6 8 Adelaide United

Finals Fixtures

Saturday 19 January **Brisbane Roar**

Sydney FC 3pm kick-off (4pm AEDT) **Queensland Sports and Athletics Centre**

Sunday 20 January Perth Glory

Melbourne Victory 1pm kick-off (4pm AEDT) nib Stadium, Perth

All KO times ae AEDT

Couch

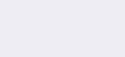
Potato



SBS ONE Sunday January 20th 10:30 am Football Asia 11:00 am FIFA Futbol Mundial

Monday January 21st 4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial 11:00 pm The World Game

SBS TWO Monday January 21st 9:30 pm The World Game



Bundesliga Round 18 Schalke v Han-

Leicester v Middlesbrough 8:50am 1st

Blue Square Premier Round 28 Brain-

npower Championship Round 27

Eredivisie Round 19 PSV v PEC

tree v Grimsby 2:50pm 1st Airing

Copa Libertadores Preview Show

npower Championship Round 27

Derby v Nottm Forest 11:55pm LIVE

SPL Round 23 St Mirren v Ross Co

Bundesliga Round 18 Bremen v

npower Championship Round 27

Blackpool v Cardiff 6:30am 1st Airing

Eredivisie Round 19 Twente v RKC

Scottish Division 3 Round 21 Peter-

Bundesliga Round 18 Nuremburg v

Eredivisie Round 19 Ajax v Feyenoord

SPL Round 23 Motherwell v St John-

Bundesliga Round 18 Highlights Show

Bundesliga Round 18 Fortuna v

head v Rangers 10:55pm LIVE

MONDAY 21ST JANUARY

Hamburg 1:25am LIVE

Augsburg 3:25am LIVE

stone 11:40am 1st Airing

TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY

npower Championship Round 27

Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing

SPL Round 23 Highlights Show 7:30pm

Eredivisie Round 19 Highlights Show

Capital One Cup Semi-Final 2nd Leg

Capital One Cup Semi-Final 2nd Leg

Copa Libertadores First Stage 1st Leg

npower League Two Round 19 Wimble-

Bundesliga Round 19 Preview Show

Swansea v Chelsea 6:40am LIVE

Sao Paulo v Bolivar 10:55am LIVE

FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY

7:00pm 1st Airing

18

don v Port Vale 6:40am LIVE

Aston Villa v Bradford 6:40am LIVE

WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY

THURSDAY 24TH JANUARY

6:10am 1st Airing

7:00pm 1st Airing

8:00pm 1st Airing

Bundesliga Round 18 Bayern Munich v

SUNDAY 20TH JANUARY

nover 6:25am LIVE

12:30pm 1st Airing

7:00pm 1st Airing

11:40pm 1st Airing

3:40pm 1st Airing

Dortmund 4:25am LIVE

Greuther 1:50pm 1st Airing

SETANTA SPORTS SATURDAY 19TH JANUARY

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE Times listed are 7 minutes prior to

Sunday 20th January 2013

Tuesday 22nd January 2013

10:00 am Liverpool TV Liverpool V

Wednesday 23rd January 2013

06:00 am Liverpool TV (Rpt) LFC's 100

Most Exciting Premier League Games

United V Liverpool

Norwich City

06:00 am Liverpool TV (Rpt) Manchester

English Premier League

WEEK 23 Sun Jan 20 Manchester City v Fulham 1.53 am Fox 1 Sun Jan 20 Newcastle v Reading 1.53 am Viewers Choice Sun Jan 20 Swansea v Stoke 1.53 am Viewers Choice Sun Jan 20 West Ham v QPR 1.53 am Viewers Choice Sun Jan 20 Wigan v Sunderland 1.53 am Viewers Choice Sun Jan 20 Liverpool v Norwich 1.53 am Fox 2 Sun Jan 20 West Brom v Aston Villa 4.23 am Fox 1 Mon Jan 21 Chelsea v Arsenal

12.15 am Fox 1 Mon Jan 21 Tottenham v Manchester United 2.45 am Fox 1

Tue Jan 22 Southampton v Everton 6.53 am

Hyundai A-League All games LIVE

Fri Jan 18 Heart v Adelaide Utd 7.30 pm Fox 1 Sat Jan 19 Sydney FC v Phoenix 5.30 pm Fox 1 Sat Jan 19 Mariners v Jets 7.45 pm Fox 1 Sat Jan 19 Glory v Victory 2.30 pm Fox 1 Sun Jan 20 Roar v Wanderers 5.00 pm Fox 1

FOX SPORTS FC

8.30 pm **Every Tuesday**

Round 17: ASK THE EXPERTS

Heart (3) Adelaide (4) Draw (1) - Sydney (6) Phoenix (1) Draw (2) - Mariners (6) Jets (0) Draw (2) - Glory (2) Victory (4) Draw (2) - Roar (3) Wanderers (3) Draw (2)

36 CILAURO

Heart Sydney CCM Glory Roar

ROGER

Adelaide

Sydney

Victory

Wanderers

Last week: 2

Mariners

SLEEMAN

Last week: 3



CRAIG MACKENZIE

Adelaide Draw Mariners Victory Wanderers

Last week: 2

ANDY

Heart

Draw

Victory

Last week: 1

Phoenix

HARPER



EDDIE KRNCEVIC

Sydney Mariners Draw Roar

Last week: 2



Heart Sydney Mariners Glory Roar

Last week: 3



JOHN DOYLE

Adelaide Sydney **Mariners** Draw

Wanderers Last week: 1

DEATH

KISS OF

Adelaide Sydney Draw Victory Draw

Last week: 4



GOLDEN GILL READY FOR FINALS TASTE

Perth Glory Women star striker Kate Gill (pictured) cannot wait for this weekend's home semi-final to get underway at nib Stadium.

The Glory will take on Melbourne Victory for a place in the 2012/13 Westfield W-League Grand Final.

It has been a remarkable W-League for 2010 Asian Player of the Year Gill, who has returned to competitive action after missing last season due to a serious knee injury.

Scoring 11 regular season goals and winning the W-League Golden Boot was the last thing Gill expected in her comeback season.

"I always knew I would be back playing, but I never really put any expectations on myself. I am just happy to be back playing and everything else that happens is a bonus.

Sunday's match will be Gill's first W-League final and the 28year-old said the team has a point to prove.

"It feels deserved to make it this far, we were written off at the start of the season and there is nothing more satisfying than proving people wrong," Gill said. "I think what makes it so great is that we are able to repay Football West for the amount of time

and effort they have invested in the team and also thank them for their belief and support, along with the great following of fans that we have.

The Westfield Matildas star said the Glory shouldn't underestimate the strength of Melbourne Victory, despite beating them 2-0 back in Round 1.

"I think they are a very improved side in relation to past seasons but also throughout this current season. They have recruited well and have some great local talent. Given what is at stake, I know that they will be a very competitive side."



Harnwell's side is the return of Lisa De Vanna and Gill knows how important she will be to give the Glory their best chance for success.

"It's great to have Lisa back, she adds that spark to the team, she is a game changer," Gill said.

"It is nice to be playing with someone whose game you know so well and who complements your style of football.

"It is always enjoyable when we are playing well together and I can't wait for the match.'

The winner of this weekend's semi-final will then take on the winner of the Brisbane Roar and Sydney FC clash in the Grand Final on January 27.

A massive crowd is expected and fans are encouraged to make it a 'Purple Sunday' by wearing the team's colours

Kick-off is at 1pm. Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory Sunday 20 January, 2013 nib Stadium, Perth Kick-off: 1.00pm local time Catch all the action on ABC1 from 4pm or listen in live on ABC 720AM. The match will also be streamed live via www.abc.net.au/w-league

PERRY TO PLAY FOR SFC

Sydney FC defender Ellyse Perry will line up for the Sky Blues in Saturday's Westfield W-League semi final against Brisbane Roar after a scheduling clash saw her having to choose between football and cricket commitments.

The duel international has been able to juggle her football and cricket schedules with Sydney FC and Cricket NSW over the 2012/13 seasons until Saturdav's clash that sees Sydney FC play a W-League semi final and the NSW Breakers face Western Fury in the Twenty20 final.

"It was a truly difficult decision to make and certainly something that took a huge amount of thought and consideration," Perry said.

"It's such a privilege for me to be a member of both Sydney FC and the NSW Breakers and I am truly grateful to the support given to me by both Cricket NSW and Sydney FC.

"The opportunity to play for the team (Sydney FC) in this weekend's semi final of the W-League is something that I am very

Perry's decision has pleased Sydney FC W-League coach Alen Stajcic, who also sympathised with the situation Perry found

herself in. "It's fantastic news that Ellyse will be playing for Sydney FC in Saturday's semi final," Stajcic said. "I know it's a tough situation for her as both teams face important end of season games but her presence for us is certainly a boost as we take on our arch rivals Brisbane Roar.

"Ellyse has worked very hard this season to fulfil all of her training and playing commitments for Sydney FC and Cricket NSW and she was in a tough situation.'

MATCH DETAILS Brisbane Roar v Sydnev FC Westfield W-League semi final Queensland Sports and Ath-

letic Centre Saturday 19 January 3pm kick off (4pm Sydney time)

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Goal! Weekly - Friday 18th January 2013

Taseski keen for another top-flight tilt



SECONDS into interviewing Kliment Taseski you realise that he's as quick with his words as he is with his feet. And just as precise.

Maybe that's why Professional Footballers Australia recently hired the 21-year-old former Young Socceroo on a part-time basis.

It appears to be a perfect fit - a young man who has played for his country, played in the A-League and who is currently doing a combined law and business degree at La Trobe University.

"I was in the leadership group at Heart and was going to be the club delegate the following season then I left the club. I was involved with the PFA while at Heart and I've kept in touch," said Taseski.

"The CBA negotiations are coming up and they offered me a part-time job and I started this week."

Taseski will start studying on a full-time basis next semester but remains focussed on carving out a career as a professional footballer. Last year he went to England and trialled with Burnley "for two or three days" then scored in a trial game with Accrington Stanley only to "do a hammy in the 30th minute" which wrecked his chances of being offered a contract.

Sadly it's been an all-too-familiar theme.

"Apart from a full season at Altona Magic in 09 my game time has been intermittent because of injury or not being selected," he said.

"Playing games is understated. As a development criteria for young players in this country playing games is the most important thing you can do."

The past three years have been busy for the midfielder. His breakout year was with Altona Magic in 2009 under coach Vlado Tortesvki when he won the Jimmy Rooney Medal as the best player in Magic's penalty shootout success over Dandenong Thunder in the VPL Grand Final.

Next port of call was Melbourne Victory's youth team then back to Magic then a senior contract with fledgling Heart then a loan spell with South Melbourne then back to Heart then signing with Moreland Zebras last year.

"I never thought about it that way but you're right. Six moves.'

Phew.

So was his last move a mistake given that the Zebras bombed out and were relegated from the VPL

"I've sometimes taken backward steps in order to move forward in the long run but I don't look at going to Moreland as a mistake," he

"I played competitive football and I enjoyed it and I think it contributed to who I am as a footballer.

"It was bitter sweet though. Our ambition at the start was to make finals and to win the VPL so to have those come down in a heap was devastating.

"But I was fortunate to have some really good coaches there who wanted to play what we'd call in popular culture the right way. The coaching staff knew we had a pretty good squad and tended to play in a way that was positive. That was what helped me to develop."

At season's end Taseski was crowned the VPL's Under-21 Player of the Year, another personal achievement that sits well alongside many appearances for the Young Socceroos.

And when he was part of that elite group playing for his country he felt he was on the cusp of a successful professional career.

"Definitely. You do have stars in your eyes. But it's about managing that situation and not looking too far ahead. If you look too far ahead you end up tripping over your own

So how did Taseski manage the situation earlier last year when he was told that Heart wouldn't renew his contract?

There's no doubt that it's a difficult situation - probably for the club as well as the player," he said. "The feedback was 'we believe in you but at the moment our squad and our midfield is overrun and you've been unfortunate with injuries.' In my case the year prior I broke my foot so that was a major setback.

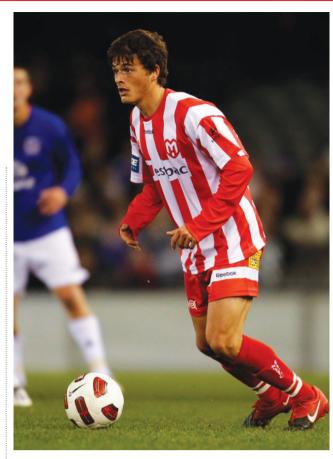
"But Heart told me to make sure that I keep working because they know that I can get there and overall it's a positive message that I was given. At least that's how I took it. It's sort of a message to make sure you play games. At the end of the day make sure your next step is the right one because potentially from there you can step up again.'

Taseski only made a handful of A-League appearances at Heart but he benefited from being at a club where the senior squad trains with the youth squad, a methodology that few A-League clubs embrace. "You want to have your senior players having a direct impact on your younger players and from a personal view I love to train with players who are better than me.

"It's one thing to have a coach tell you how to play but it's a completely different thing having an elite player standing next to you and seeing how they play. It's a different form of learning which contributes to your development.

"It's important to be challenged at training. Every single day. It forces you to be better."

When pushed about his next move



Kliment Taseski in action for Melbourne Heart against touring EPL side Everton during a pre-season game back in July 2010.

the articulate Taseski is momentarily lost for words. Rumour has t that Hume City, Melbourne Knights and Richmond are keen on securing him but he won't be drawn on commenting. Instead he returns to a familiar theme.

"To be perfectly honest I'd much prefer to play in the A-League because I know it's a competitive level. It's something I've experienced and something I want to push to

"I moved from Heart to the VPL to try and make sure I play well and hopefully one day get back to the A-League.

"Right now I'm focussed on the VPL season coming up and making the most of that opportunity."

That's a short-term strategy but I have a long-term plan for Taseski. It goes something like this - he breaks back into pro ranks and has a lengthy playing career that also involves a stint or two overseas. When he eventually retires he replaces the then ageing and completely stressed out John Didulica as Football Operations Manager at Heart. Sound good?

"Hahaha. I wouldn't be pushing JD out of that role believe me.

"He's been a big influence in me doing the law part of my uni course. I'd spoken to him prior to signing for Heart. He knew I had good enough marks to do a law degree and he told me that it opens up doors. I took his advice and I haven't looked back since.

By the way if any VPL clubs out there make a pitch for Taseski you'll deal with him directly as he hasn't got an agent.

Somehow I think he'll handle the negotiations with aplomb and I'm tipping that any contract he signs with a VPL club will have an escape clause to do with potential A-League suitors or overseas trials.

Contract wait for Oz trio

YOUNG Victorians Bailey Wright, Jamie MacLaren and Jackson Irvine right now are wondering where their professional football careers will take them next.

They are in the final year of contracts, Wright with English League One side Preston North End, MacLaren with Championship outfit Blackburn Rovers and Irvine with Scottish giant Celtic.

Wright has had a topsy-turvy time at Preston since playing the last 11 games straight of the previous season.

He was surprisingly transfer listed at the end of last season, a decision which was reversed a few weeks later.

Since being taken off the transfer list he has cemented his place in the senior line-up and barring two head injuries which have sidelined him for a total of three weeks he's had a breakout season.

So much so that he was the subject of speculation last November regarding a move to an EPL club during this month's transfer window.

Preston has an offer on the table which swamps his current deal and although talks were put on hold a couple of months back 20-year-old Wright is happy to extend his stay at Deepdale.

MacLaren, 19, has been playing with Blackburn's reserves. He lined up in a recent trial game against a Manchester City reserves side that featured Mario Balotelli and earlier this week the teenager came on four minutes



tona Magic in the 2009 VPL Grand Final penalty shoot-out triumph over Dandenong Thunder. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Blackburn Rovers striker Jamie MacLaren – loan move likely.

into the second half of a 3-0 league loss to Everton's reserves and did well, crafting a rare chance with a volley that flashed just wide. He is keen for a loan move and he's

not fussy about where he goes. "Mate, I'll go anywhere. I'll go abroad or wherever," he said.

"I'd go to League One, League Two, I'd go to Scotland, wherever.' Darren Jackson of Inspire Sports Management is MacLaren's new agent (no, not the Darren Jackson of Hibs, Celtic and Scotland fame) and the young striker is hopeful that talks of a contract renewal will open this month or next.

There's been turmoil at the club and already Blackburn has had three managers this season - Steve Kean, Henning Berg and the recently appointed Michael Appel-

"I've got confidence that I can continue my career at Blackburn but everything's up in the air at the moment because of what the club's been going through," said MacLaren.

"On a personal level the next few months are vital. I've got to get game time and do the business and if I can do that then I'm sure things

will work out." Like MacLaren, Irvine has signed with Inspire Sports Management and his agent was due to meet with

Celtic as we went to press. There's every indication that Celtic will exercise the one-year option remaining on the Young Socceroo star's deal.

Irvine damaged ankle ligaments during November's AFC Under-19 finals tournament and has been recovering ever since.



Santo, Sam & Ed Podcast

Santo Cilauro, Sam Pang and Ed Kavalee are back in town with their own unique take on events of the week.

Their brief is simple - 7 days, 3 guys, no agenda.

Podcast available on iTunes

http://itun.es/au/d0dQl.c

Facebook: Santo. Sam and Ed Twitter: @SantoSamEd



Shona Bass: Pioneer of the women's game

Blast From The Past



By Roy Hay

In an earlier Blast I discussed the early history of the women's game going back deep into the nineteenth century. Thereafter women had a very tough time establishing their right to play the game in the face of strong opposition from male officialdom.

However each generation overcame obstacles both here and overseas and women continued to play. It was in the 1970s that the women's game really took off in an organised way in Australia. In Victoria a group of pioneers started a state competition in the 1970s. A national competition began in 1974 and there were enough teams in Victoria that year to split the state league into two divisions-western and eastern-won by Melton and Doveton respectively.

Among those taking part in these vears were a number of women who have since been recognised in national and state halls of fame or by the naming of trophies after them. They include Janette Melvin, Theresa Deas and Betty Hoar. Another player who made a significant contribution at that time was Shona Bass. She represented Victoria and then was selected for the Australian team which took part in the inaugural Trans-Tasman Cup in New South Wales and Queensland in 1979. These were the among the first recognised A internationals played by the Australian women's team. The first game drawn, while the second was won by New Zealand by one-nil and third by Australia by the same score. Shona Bass went on to play in the second Trans-Tasman Cup in New Zealand in 1980. This time the Australians came out on top in the third game by 3-2 after two draws. Sandra Brentnall scored all three goals for the Australia in

the final match. As with all the players at that time, Shona Bass, had to pay for the privilege of playing and meet most of the expenses of her representative matches. She was already heavily involved in coaching and player development and was studying for a career in teaching. This limited her opportunities to appear with the national team but she took part in the second Oceania Cup in 1987 in New Zealand when the women's Australian team came runner-up to Chinese Taipei in the final. The team included Julie Murray,



Shona Bass does her stretches before a game. Photo: Barry S, Sunday Observer, c 2 August 1986.

Karen Menzies, Renaye Iserief, Sue Buswell, Sabine Buschmann, Sue Monteath, Leanne Priestley, Joanne Millman, Terri McQueen, Moya Dodd, Mariana Milanovic, Lisa Rader, Theresa Jones, Shona Bass, Andrea Martin and Sharon Mateljan. There had been a major dispute within the women's ranks just prior to the tournament and the NSW players were withdrawn. In all Shona Bass won eight caps for what became known as the

Though she continued to be involved in the development of the game, Shona Bass's academic career became her main focus. She completed a PhD in the Department of Medicine at the University of Melbourne and later became a professor and head of school at Deakin University and a widely published author. She is now involved with Early Foundations as a Director concerned with the development of children. Recently she debated the need for much greater public support for early intervention in children's education with the Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan on Channel Ten.



Shona Bass headshot in 2012.



Shona Bass jumps to control the ball. Photo: Barry S, Sunday Observer, c 2 August 1986.

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V-LEAGUE Premiership

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Women's Futsal Fever Comes to Melbourne

The Australia day long weekend will make one of the biggest Women's Futsal tournaments ever held in Australia. The Women's FAFL Cup has brought teams from QLD, VIC, NSW, ACT & NZ for this landmark event and it promises to be one not to miss out on.

Women's Futsal in Australia has taken a backseat due to funding and politics, however Futsal Oz has put on a free tournament for the country's best players to fill a void that has been in the sport we all love.

The clubs competing at the Women's FAFL Cup are as follows:

Victoria

Cobras Futsal - The young Cobras squad will be looking to cause a few upset with its much fancier rivals during the event. With a home town crowd behind them any this is possible.

Pascoe Vale - Like the Cobras, Pascoe Vale will be looking to entertain the home town crowd. There will be some pressure on the girls with the Pascoe Vale men's side winning the inaugural Men's FAFL Cup in September.

ACT

Boomerangs – The Boomerangs squad are fresh from a win at the FFA Futsal National Championships, so confidence will be high and you can expect to see the girls come finals time. Coach Kristian Collins will be hoping for some good early results to get the team off to a good start.

Rovers Futsal - The Rovers play in the NSW Futsal Premier League and have a number of experienced players in their squad another team that could possible take out the title if the play at their best over the weekend.

Quake Futsal - Quake are currently defending NSW Futsal Premier League champions. The NSW Premier League is widely regarded at the best in Australia. Quake has a balanced squad of youth and experience. During the weekend Quake will be under the guidance of current New Zealand Futsal men's coach Scott Gilligan.

Parramatta Blues - The blues are full of experience with their squad also playing the NSW Pre-



Action in the NSW Premier League between Quake (purple) and Rovers (green). Photo: Alison Thompson)

Mainland Futsal keeper Noran Abaza after winning the NZ Futsal Championships. tournament well they could cause a few upsets.

Queensland - The Queensland side will again have experience on their side with a number of their squad playing the sport for a number of years. With Justin Morrison coaching the squad you can rest assured they will be fighting it out for the title.

Mainland Futsal - Fresh from their win at the NZ Futsal Championships, the Mainland girls will be coming to test themselves against Australia's best. NZ Futsal has come on 5 Moreland FC leaps and bounds in recent years and their inclusion is great for the game both here

and in NZ.

The Women's FAFL Futsal Draw

Saturday 19th January

Sydney Warriors vs. Boomerangs FS 9am Campbelltown Quake vs.Cobras Futsal 10am 11am **Enfield Rovers vs. Mainland Futsal** Parramatta Blues vs. Pascoe Vale FC Cobras Futsal vs. Boomerangs FS 1pm Campbelltown Quake vs. Brisbane Futsal 2pm Mainland Futsal vs. Pascoe Vale FC 3pm Enfield Rovers vs. Queensland 4pm Boomerangs FS vs. Brisbane Futsal 5pm Cobras Futsal vs. Sydney Warriors 6pm Pascoe Vale FC vs. Queensland 7pm Parramatta Blues vs. Mainland Futsal 8pm Brisbane Futsal vs. Sydney Warriors 9pm

Sunday 20th January

Boomerangs FS vs. Campbelltown Quake 9am 10am Queensland vs. Parramatta Blues Pascoe Vale FC vs. Enfield Rovers 11am Sydney Warriors vs. Campbelltown Quake 12am Brisbane Futsal vs. Cobras Futsal 1pm Parramatta Blues vs. Enfield Rovers 2pm Queensland vs. Mainland Futsal 3pm

SF1: Winner Group A vs. 2nd Group B SF2: Winner Group B vs. 2nd Group A 6pm 8pm Final Winner Semi Final 1 vs. Winner Semi Final 2

V-League Standings

1 Pascoe Vale FC 11 10 1 0 87 44 +43 31 11 8 1 2 83 32 +51 25 2 Hume FC 11 8 0 3 87 54 +33 24 3 Metropolitan FC 11 7 2 2 58 42 +16 23 4 Vic Vipers FC 11 6 0 5 53 81 -28 18 6 Ashburton FC 11 5 1 5 42 35 +7 16 11 5 1 5 47 43 +4 16 7 Fitzroy FC 11 4 0 7 45 60 -15 12 8 CF Brunswick 9 FC Balwyn 10 FC Prahran 11 3 1 7 46 65 -19 10 11 FC Essendon 11 3 0 8 36 75 -39 9 12 Brighton FC 11 0 0 11 27 61 -34 0

Round 12 Clashes Friday January 18

6:30pm - Pascoe Vale FC vs. Brighton FC 7:20pm – Moreland FC vs. CF Brunswick 8:10pm – Vic Vipers FC vs. Ashburton FC 9:00pm – Fitzroy FC vs. FC Prahran 9:50pm – Metropolitan FC vs. FC Balwyn 10:40pm – Hume FC vs. FC Essendon

Round 13 Clashes Sunday January 20

2:00pm - FC Balwyn vs. Pascoe Vale FC 3:00pm – Fitzroy FC vs. Hume FC 4:00pm – Ashburton FC vs. Brighton FC 5:00pm – FC Essendon vs. Moreland FC 6:00pm – CF Brunswick vs. Vic Vipers FC 7:00pm – FC Prahran vs. Metropolitan FC

Top Goal Scorers

Juso Julardzija (Metropolitan FC) – 24 Goals Alija Redzepovic (Metropolitan FC) – 22 Goals Ernie Simsek (Pascoe Vale FC) – 17 Goals Vadim Mazurskiy (Hume FC)– 17 Goals Burukan Koca (Moreland FC)– 16 Goals

The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday 6.30pm on C31 and C44Digital **FUTSAL** 🔽



Quake Futsal's Claire Walsh (R) playing for NSW Thunder at the FFA Futsal National Championships. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

mier League they have a number of players that have played in National championships and grand finals, look for them to one of the contenders for the title. The inclusion of West Sydney Warriors W-League player Trudy Camilleri will no doubt help the Blues.

Sydney Warriors - The Warriors are currently leading NSW Futsal Premier League and coach Ben Pollock will be hoping his team can continue its good run so far this year for the FAFL Cup. Like all the NSW they will be had to beat so expect the Warriors to be fighting for a finals position.

Brisbane Futsal - A new club with a number of experienced players. We are not sure what to expect from the club, if they can start the



www.goalweekly.com Inside Football

LMA Blames Soccer Transfer Window

For some reason the League Managers Association (LMA) in England wants to do away with the annual January transfer window. That comes from its head, Richard Bevan. He states that the window makes it harder for clubs to manage their budgets and the value of players often becomes inflated due to the last-minute nature of the win dow. But according to Bevan, the decision has to be made by FIFA and we all know there's not much chance of any change with the senile Sepp Blatter in charge. Bevan said the LMA, the Football Association, the Football League, the Premier League, and the Professional Footballers Association would all like to see the transfer window slammed shut. However, he doesn't really offer much in the way of reasons for the system to be altered. If clubs are stupid enough to pay overinflated prices for players, that's basically their problem. He does make a good point about FIFA and Blatter though, as he said one man shouldn't have that much power and impact on world football and that has to change. But I don't really see how the two are related. Bevan argues that the transfer window doesn't create stability and a level playing field. But I see it as a chance for star players

move to West Ham. It seems to me that Bevan's main reason for scrapping the

doing nothing at Spurs. The

who are sitting on the bench or

in the stands to get back onto the

field. It's ridiculous that there are

dozens of good players, many

of them who are internationals,

who aren't playing. And it's the

fans who are getting ripped off.

Take Robbie Keane for example

Here's one of the top scorers in

EPL history who's wasting away

transfer window allowed him to



LMA Head Richard Bevan meets the press.

transfer window is to save jobs of managers and that's no surprise since he heads up the LMA. Bevan is basically looking out for the managers and not much else here. He's consistently harping on about the way managers are treated and has said that rich club owners treat them as scapegoats when they fire them. He believes the January transfer window actually costs some managers their jobs. Bevan said the clubs need to work with managers to create a stable platform and wants to see owners give them more time.

He then pointed out to how clubs have overpaid for players, which is true, but what has that got to do with the January transfer window? Manchester City paid about £27m for striker Edin Dzeko from Wolfsburg while the German club only paid £4m for him in 2007. Liverpool paid £23m for striker Luis Suarez from Ajax, who only paid £6.4m for him three years ago. But these moves can be blamed on plain stupidity not the concept of a transfer

Club owners and managers are constantly spending millions on strikers and then don't have the sense to play them. They play negative football with millionaire strikers sitting on the bench while less-skilled players are on the pitch trying to prevent goals. It's the whole attitude of the sport that needs changing. Closing the January transfer window isn't going to do that.



Fans unite against away ticket prices

Rival fans from Liverpool and Manchester United will work together with other trusts and the Football Supporters' Federation to campaign for a maximum away ticket price in the Premier League, following Manchester City's decision to send back a third of their allocation for Sunday's match at

The FSF and Supporters Direct are in the process of arranging formal meetings between fan groups in the top flight, to lobby the Premier League and its clubs to introduce a £20-£25 cap for away games. City sent back 912 tickets, priced at £62, for this weekend's match at the Emirates Stadium.

Premier League rules state that away fans must be charged the same price for the same match as home supporters. However, Malcolm Clarke, the FSF president, believes fans have had enough and increased TV revenue from next season should result in lower

"Though we have our club rivalries what we recognise is that without the rival sets of supporters inside a ground the atmosphere is much poorer," he said. "We're going to be launching a campaign within a few weeks, we will be calling for a maximum ticket price in the Premier League for away fans. "Next season they could knock off £32 from every single ticket, for every single game, for every single supporter in the Premier League and still have the same amount of money that they have this season because of the TV income. Supporters of both Manchester clubs, Liverpool, Chelsea, Arsenal and Tottenham routinely get charged the highest category prices to attend away matches while followers of other sides are able to pay less, Indeed, Stoke City fans will each pay £32.50 when they go Liverpool play at the Emirates in two weeks. The club expect to sell their allocation but the consensus from sup porters is that they are being exploited

for their loyalty and dedication. The group Spirit of Shankly believes opposing supporters need to unite if away ticket prices are to be capped. "We are trying to get supporters of all clubs around the table," a spokesman said. 'Liverpool fans aren't going to change it on their own. At the moment we're a mid-table club still paying category

the group, added: "We're looking at working with the arch enemy Manchester United and others to put a bit of pressure on the clubs to introduce a cap for prices on away tickets. Everybody jokes about Manchester United fans being from outside of Manchester but the core of them are from the Manchester area. The rivalry will start to dwindle when the prices are driving local people away from the game." The Manchester United Supporters Trust chief executive, Duncan Drasdo, said the key issue is the disparity in prices, with fans of bigger clubs paying more compared to others. He said: "The attack on traditional

football fan culture continues relentlessly but until recently away support remained as at least one bastion of hard-core support which had remained largely intact.

"However, the threat to the away fan is very clear now and this should concern even the most self serving of club owners as the large vocal away following has long been a hugely attractive aspect of British football.

"If the home club wishes to charge different prices to home fans depending on the opposition that isn't unreasonable but to charge one set of away fans a higher price than another is clearly inequitable

"Price categorisation for away fans should be outlawed and this is something MUST has been lobbying for. It has brought together arch rivals such as Manchester United and Liverpool fans who both recognise the essential importance of genuine vocal away fans to the culture of English football.' Arsenal supporters have been increasingly vocal in protest of high ticket prices. The most expensive season ticket at the club is £1,955 while the dearest individual matchday ticket is £126. However, for games that are regarded as "category C", namely Sunderland, Southampton, Swansea City, West Bromwich Albion, Reading and Norwich City, a ticket can be purchased

Tim Payton of the Arsenal Supporters' Trust defended the City fans who will not attend Sunday's game and said that without away supporters inside the stadium the "product" of the Premier League would be seriously harmed. "The away fan is disproportionately

ism and the atmosphere, all part of this wonderful product that is the Premier League. Every fan is important but without the away fans you get a tepid atmosphere. The problem with this categorisation is for the away fan, if vou follow Arsenal, a Chelsea or a Manchester City you'll get clobbered everywhere you go."

A survey into the price of football conducted last year found that the cost of the cheapest adult ticket in the Football League had risen by 11.7%, more than five times the rate of inflation. With travel and refreshment costs also rising, and the most expensive matchday programme costing £4, a large number of supporters feel that they are being priced out of watching their side. Martin has followed Liverpool home and away for 12 years but is considering missing a match for the first time during that period due to the cost of a ticket at Arsenal. He says that per year with a season ticket, it costs £2,000 in admission fees to watch Liverpool at home and on the road, and giving a conservative estimation believes he pays more than £1,000 in other costs throughout the campaign. "I don't think I'm going to buy a ticket for Arsenal. It's £62, the price is just unbelievable, more than double what it should be. This will be the first time in 12 seasons I've seen a price of a ticket and thought I'm not going to get one. Arsenal is not a £62 experience. You'd consider that as a price for an FA Cup final ticket." However, the Premier League insisted that attendances are still high and that the quality of stadiums in the top division has greatly improved. "Ticket pricing is a matter for individual clubs, many of which work hard to fill their stadiums with offers at different points during a season that make top flight football accessible to large numbers of fans," a spokesman said. "The quality and safety of stadia is as a result of extensive and continued investment from the clubs. Fans clearly enjoy the environment in which they watch Premier League matches and the football on offer with occupancy rates at grounds tracking at 95% for this season and having been 90%+ for the last 15 seasons in a row.'

- James Riach / The Guardian



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A change of youth order in SudAmericano U20s



Latin

By Francis Fields

The Under-20 World Cup South American zone qualifiers held in Argentina's wine region of Mendoza and San Juan are in

Over the past decade, the majority of South America's best talent has featured in the South American U-20 Championships. Players like Arturo Vidal, Edinson Cavani, Oscar, Alexis Sánchez and Neymar all impressed in their participations, and it was at the 2005 tournament in Colombia that many got their first glimpse of a 17-year-old Lionel Messi.

Last week saw Argentina open as hosts against Chile, losing against nine men and 1-0 courtesy of a Nicolás Castillo header, whom has caused interest from European scouts already and is on 2 goals in the tournament.

Argentina coach Marcelo Trobbiani made changes to the side for the following match against Paraguay in an attempt to leave the team more balanced. Yet their exciting attacking unit did not gel, and their individualistic forward play ended up costing them the game, throwing away a 1-0 lead to eventually go down 2-1 to the "Guaranís".

The hosts are now on the brink of elimination from the tournament and questions are being asked of the national youth policy after another embarrassing failure.

paign with a 1-1 draw to Ecuador. It has been a disappointing and sluggish start for the two heavyweights.

Brazil in Group B opened its cam-

As for Brazil, it has been a very disappointing campaign too.

The only real promise among this Brazilian generation is centre-back Dória. A first-team regular for his club Botafogo, Dória has looked magnificent in his first season of professional football. He is both intelligent and technically adept, and he holds himself with the same maturity and confidence as a defender twice his age. It comes as no sur-



Igor Lichnovsky, captain of the Chile side scores against Colombia in an exciting duel in the tournament's best side so far.

ets to the World championship in Turkey, yielded a disappointing result so far in the city of San Juan Argentina, where the team managed a draw with Ecuador and then lost to Uruguay.

South American U-20 Champion-It is in fact the Uruguayans who are ahead with five points, followed The Real Madrid Castilla striker by Peru (4), Venezuela (3), Ecuanetted the only goal of the game in dor (2) and Brazil (1). The Ecuadorans and Peruvians will the 36th minute from the spot, after

face off this Wednesday, to close the fourth day of Group B, while the Uruguayans will take a break. Last night Colombia defeated Bolivia 6-0 in a Group A match, where the forward Miguel Ange Borja

in the first half and the other two at minutes 7 and 12 in the second. For its part, the team of Chile rounded a perfect performance yesterday in the group stage with a 3-2 victory over Paraguay that allowed the team to end with 12 points with

played masterfully, scoring three

goals, the first one after 45 minutes

Paraguay did not give up and at the nine minute mark in the second have reached a tie, playing quickly and accurately, led by Alborno Ro-

Leaders of the Group A, however, did not give up their efforts to achieve the fourth victory of the tournament and when the party died down, Alejandro Contreras (45) celebrated the third and defining goal.

against Peru in a thriller.

With this, Chile finished its participation in the group stage with 12 points, followed by Colombia (6), Paraguay (3), Argentina and Bolivia (1).

In Mendoza, Chile are the runaway leaders in Group A with four wins from four games; followed by Colombia and Paraguay. Hosts Argentina and Bolivia are struggling at the bottom with one point

Colombia took full advantage of Bolivia and its defensive woes with a 6-0 demolition. The "cafeteros" or "coffee makers" as they are known had forward Miguel Borja on fire with a hat-trick, on '45, '53 and '57 minutes, while Juan Pablo Nieto netted on '50) and John Córdoba ('76 and' 87) competing the rout.

For Colombia, the real star of

the show has been Colombia's 19-year-old playmaker Juan Fernando Quintero.

Quintero is a nippy, left-footed midfielder with superb technique and movement. Unlike many cerebral No 10s, Quintero is also mobile and has wonderful control over his own speed. He had an excellent year in 2012, earning a transfer to Italian club Pescara and even making it into the senior Colombian national squad.

At U-20 level, he is the focal point for all his team-mates, and he appears to be thriving under the increased responsibility and expectation.

So it has been a strange early round-robin but nevertheless very exciting.

The top three from each section then advance to a six-team final qualifying phase to be played in Mendoza, with the round-robin format to decide the four sides to represent the region at Turkey 2013 next June/July.

Stay tuned next week with a special on the final hexagonal roundrobin results and review.

SudAmericano U20

Group A PWDL F A GD Pts 4 4 0 0 8 3 +5 12 2 Colombia 3 2 0 1 8 2 +6 6 3 Paraguay 3 1 0 2 4 5 -1 3 4 Argentina 3 0 1 2 3 5 -2 1 5 Bolivia 3 0 1 2 2 10 -8 1

Argentina 1 - 2 Paraguay Chile 2 - 0 Bolivia Chile 2 - 1 Colombia Argentina 2 - 2 Bolivia Paraguay 2 - 3 Chile Colombia 6 - 0 Bolivia

Group B

PWDLFAGDPts 1 Uruguay 3 1 2 0 8 7 +1 5 2 Peru 2 1 1 0 4 3 +1 4 3 Venezuela 2 1 0 1 1 1 +0 3 3 0 2 1 3 4 -1 2 4 Ecuador 5 Brazil 201134-11

Brazil 2 - 3 Uruguay Ecuador 0 - 1 Venezuela Peru 1 - 0 Venezuela Uruguay 2 - 2 Ecuador

Maradona happy to be out of

Argentina legend Diego Maradona has revealed he no longer wants to work in football. The former Al Wasl coach has spoken of his disillusionment with the game following the dismissal and swift replacement of Matias Almeyda by River Plate. "After how disgusted I was with the way they fired 'Pelado'



prise then, that Italian champions

Juventus are desperate to bring

Cristian Benavente's first-half

penalty was the difference as Peru

edged out Venezuela 1-0 in the

he was fouled in the box by Venezu-

Unbeaten Peru meanwhile have

made a solid start to their campaign

and are second in Group B with

four points from two matches, one

Venezuela are third on three

points, Ecuador fourth on two and

reigning champions Brazil fifth on

one. Uruguay and Ecuador have

Last in qualifying for Group B by

iust one point, Brazil must win today

over Venezuela if it wants to contin-

ue advancing to the final round of

the South American Championship

The 11 time champion of the event.

which this year will yield four tick-

ela defender Wilker Ángel.

behind leaders Uruguay.

played one more game.

U-20 soccer.

him to Serie A.

Almeyda and by Sunday they had Ramon Diaz, I no longer want to work in soccer," he told Radio Nacional.

"To present the new coach in three days, it disgusts me. I don't want to do it again."

Maradona, a former Boca Juniors favourite, refused to be drawn on the subject of Juan Roman Riquelme's future with the club, stressing the player's need to find a new team while he still has the ability to play football. "What happened between Riquelme, (coach Carlos) Bianchi and (president Daniel) Angelici is their problem. What I think is that he has to play again. I don't think for Boca, but he has to return to play."

Tevez banned from driving

four entries on the field.

Manchester City's Carlos Tevez has received a six-month driving ban for failing to respond to letters warning him he had been clocked speeding.

The Argentine was banned after Manchester Magistrates' Court heard he had failed to understand the word 'constabulary' on official letters from the police. In addition to the ban, Tevez

received fines and costs of 1850 euros, though the 28-year-old did not attend the hearing in person and denied driving his car when it was caught

This is not the first time Tevez has courted controversy, after leaving England midway through last season to spend six months in his native Argentina following a public row with boss Roberto Mancini.

The forward has scored 10 goals in 29 appearances for Manchester City this season.

Neymar voted best goal in Brazil

Brazilian international Neymar has been awarded with the best goal in Brazil's First Division for his jinking run and strike against Atletico Mineiro.

The 20-year-old star beat three defenders before firing low past the goalkeeper during Santos' 2-2 draw with Atletico in Round

Neymar also featured in the top

10 for his effort against Coritiba and beat off competition from Atletico's Jo and Vasco da Gama's Alecsandro.

Former Manchester City striker Jo completed a fine individual run from a team-mate with a neat volley to take second place.

Meanwhile, Vasco's Alecsandro, who finished third, was acknowledged for his stunning overhead kick against Portuguesa.

Atletico's Ronaldinho featured in the top 10 twice for his goals against Figueirense and Cruzeiro.



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London Calling



By Samuel Collins

In front of forty-four thousand, they thought they had done it. It looked to have been the turning point.

With the youngest eleven any team has fielded in the Premier League this season - 23 years, 309 days old - Aston Villa had walked away from Anfield with three points. They had struck three times against Liverpool - a Liverpool who's young manager, Brendan Rodgers, had 24 hours earlier targeted a top two finish. Though, despite the outstanding display of forward Christian Benteke - two excellent finishes and a captivating back-heel assist - and, despite the apparent burgeoning of his youthful outfit, it all proved to be a red herring for coach Paul Lambert. Nothing more than wallpa-

That 3-1 success a month ago for Villa was one Lambert labelled "fabulous", yet, the statistics postmatch proved to be an enlightened dossier. The Villans were outdone, considerably, in every area. Liverpool had 72% possession, 29 goal attempts and 7 corners, yet they were somehow defeated. And Villa were somehow victorious. Regardless of their seemingly camouflaged inferiority, the result ought to have been a springboard, a platform for

Villa crisis grows ahead of derby



Christian Benteke of Aston Villa celebrates after scoring the first goal with team mate Barry Bannan during the 3-1 win over Liverpool at Anfield back on December 15, 2012.

improvement for a club who, following the win, sat three points above the relegation zone. But matters have deteriorated. And the indignation of supporters has grown. Lambert has watched his team take just one point from the last five league fixtures. Brad Guzan, Villa's unfortunate number one, has conceded 18 times in that spell, whist at the other end, just two strikes have found the opposing net - both in the same game, the 2-2 draw at Swansea on New Year's Day.

Villa are 18th and have won just four league games all season. They have 19 points after 22 league games. This time last year, they had 27 points. The previous campaign, they had 22 points at this stage. Back in 2008/09 under the guidance of Martin O'Neill, they had 44

points. You have to back to the 1969/70 season to find the last time the club had a tally this low after 22 games. Back then, a win resulted in two points, Villa were in the second division, the Beatles were number one in the charts, the first commercial advertisement on English TV had only just arrived, and, more disconcerting, the Villans were relegated months later.

club's worst start to a campaign in 44 years, Lambert's position is safe. On Sunday, the 43-year old former Norwich manager was told by owner Randy Lerner that a change of coach wasn't on the agenda. But you feel that could soon alter. Villa face three crucial games in the next fortnight, fixtures that could shape their season. And the next tie is prob-

Though, despite overseeing the

ably the most important of them all; the derby, not quite the Second City derby v Birmingham, but "the most competitive" one as former coach Ron Atkinson put it last year. The squad travel to high-flying West Brom this weekend, although encouragingly for Lambert and his players, WBA have lost their last three. After that, comes the second leg of the league cup semi-final against an intrepid Bradford City side, already 3-1 down from their first meeting last week. Seven days later, a relegation clash against struggling Newcastle at Villa Park

"Are the players fully behind Lambert?" Ciaran Clark, captain in the absence of the ill Stiliyan Petrov and the injured Richard Dunne, was asked following Saturday's 1-0 loss at home to

Southampton, "Definitely. Our luck is out at the minute." It's difficult to argue with the Irishman. The Saints' win in the Midlands came courtesy of, well, a dive to be blunt. Jay Rodriguez, the visitor's record signing - £7m from Burnley last summer - tumbled inside Villa's box, however replays showed no contact with any other player. Ricky Lambert scored the resulting penalty; his ninth league goal of the campaign. That's the difference. Villa's highest scorer is Benteke with six, and despite promising moments, the Belgian's form has declined - one goal in seven appearances since his Anfield masterclass. The gaps left by the unavailability of experienced trio Dunne, Petrov and Ron Vlaar haven't been filled. England striker Darren Bent has started just six games, due to a combination of injuries, form and Lambert's preferred tactics, while fan's favourite Gabriel Agbonlahor's fitness issues have seen him begin only eleven times.

Worryingly for supporters, there are little signings of an improvement. The transfer budget overutilized during O'Neill's four-year stay - £120m spent in total - forced an alternative approach to the market by Lerner, meaning his predecessors have had little to spend. West Brom's out-of-favour midfielder Graham Dorrans could be the only ar-

"I think we'll be safe," Lambert reiterated on Saturday, "Why? I just do." Villa's players will need to match their Scot's belief if they are to avoid a first relegation in 26 years.

FA Cup: Gunners and United through



Jack Wilshere's late strike gave Arsenal a deserved 1-0 FA Cup win over Swansea City on Wednesday, while Mancheste

United also triumphed.

In the two remaining third round replays, the English giants recorded narrow victories as the famous cup competition was narrowed down to 32

Wilshere struck with just four minutes left at the Emirates Stadium to give Arsene Wenger's side their first win of 2013. Rotations were high for the clash;

Swansea made six changes and Arsenal three: and both sides made a lively beginning

Wenger's side finally broke the deadlock on 86 minutes though as Giroud laid off for Wilshere with the 21 year-old driving home a low strike from the edge of the penalty area to delight the home fans.

The night's other match saw Manchester United defeat West Ham United 1-0 at Old Trafford.

Sir Alex Ferguson made a whopping 10 changes to his team for the clash and his side were far from convincing in the win, which came thanks to a ninthminute goal from striker Wayne Rooney. Rooney - playing his first game in almost a month after a knee injury tapped home Javier Hernandez's cross for the opener.

The English forward had a chance to double his account for the evening from the penalty spot with 11 minutes to play after West Ham defender Jordan Spence handled a Ryan Giggs cross in the penalty area.



By Alex Milic



The **Football** Federation Montenegro has

organised for some of their top players a future after their playing careers with training for UEFA coaching badges.

While the national team's main focus is on qualifying for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, a number of Montenegro's players are perparing for the next phase of their careers as Milorad Pekovic, Milan Jovanovic, Miodrag Džudovic, Vladimir Božovic and Branko Boškovicc were among the students enrolling for the first semester of the Football Federation of Montenegro (FSCG) UEFA A licence coaching course. Internationals boasting more than 20 caps were entitled to attend December's short course for free.

35-year-old midfielder Pekovic, currently playing in the Bundesliga for SpVgg Greuther Fürth says, "I am not far off finishing my playing career, so I have



Montenegro players preparing for the future

football for life and can't ever see myself straying far when I end my playing career. This is a great opportunity for me to turn a new page in my career."

Pekovic already has a coaching role model, having playedunder Borussia Dortmund coach Jürgen Klopp between 2005 and 2008 at 1. FSV Mainz 05.

Pekovic says, "He started his coaching career when he was about my age and ten years later he is one of the best in the world," said Pekovic. "I will never forget his training methods and relationship with the players, and will try to use what

Former FK Red Star Belgrade, Paris Saint-Germain FC and SK Rapid Wien midfielder Boškovic is back home at the end of a third season in the United States with DC United, and is also thinking long term. Boskovic says, "I am 31 and I plan to play for a couple more years, but this is a good way to start thinking about football in another way," he said. "When you are a player, you don't need to think about a lot of things just train well, play the best you can, fight for your team and do what coach says. I know that to think of my future. I am in I learned and heard from him." I expect I will be able to think

about fooball in a different way when the time comes."

FSCG coach instructor Nikola Rakojevic is encouraged by the players' enthusiasm. "These are the first steps, but it is very promising," he said. "I think they realise how big the difference is between playing and coaching, which is very important. If they think they know everything about football, they will have problems, but if they are ready to learn every day, using the experience they have from playing in strong leagues and working with good coaches, they could be on the right track.'

Meanwhile, the director of the

FSCG coaching school, Niko Raickovic, is delighted these top players "see their future in Montenegrin football", saying: "As a small nation, we must care about every single talented player, but also for every young coach. I am glad to see our best players think about coaching and we are committed to giving them the best education and support possible.'

FYROM Macedonia



NK Maribor attacking midfielder Agim Ibraimi has been named as Macedonian

Player of the Year for the first time following a poll conducted by the Football Federation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The 24-year-old collected the prize at a ceremony in Skopje on having helped Maribor dominate Slovenian football in 2011/12, winning a league and cup double, and also playing every minute of the club's UEFA Europa League group stage campaign this season. Capped 16 times by FYROM after his debut in 2009 in a friendly against world and European champions Spain, Ibraimi has also impressed in qualifying for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, scoring the only goal against Serbia and also finding the net in a 2-1 defeat against Croatia.

Ibraimi says, "I'm happy to have received this award, which to me represents great honour and above all a big responsibility to carry on giving my utmost on the field for my team and for my country."

Ibraimi finished ahead of fivetime winner Goran Pandev and Nikolche Noveski, the award's 2005 recipient, in a poll of the coaches and captains of the 12 Macedonian First League clubs. Ibraimi says, "I'd like to thank my team-mates and family for the enormous support and everyone who believed in me."

Ostoja Stjepanovic took the FFM prize for their domestic player of the year, the 24-year-old midfielder playing a key role in FK Vardar's first domestic title since 2003. Ilcho Gjorgjioski, who guided Vardar to the championship before being elected president of the FFM, took the coaching award, while 18-yearold midfielder David Babunski. part of FC Barcelona's youth setup, was named young player of the year.

Natasa Andonova of 1.FFC Turbine Potsdam collected the women's prize, while Aleksandar Stavrev picked up the referee award. The futsal section was dominated by KMF Zelezared Skopje, who won the team prize with the coach and player award going to Zoran Lekic and Zor Leveski respectively.



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By Andrew Bishara

Villa Cellar Battle Beckons

Aston Villa is one of the big clubs of English football. They've won the top division ten times, the last coming 32 years ago in 1981. They have another seven FA Cups in the trophy cabinet. They even have a European Cup to their name (the old Champions League, before it was renamed). Since 1990, they've been in the top league and are one of the founding members of the Premier League. Hell, they even finished second in 1992. Now, they are sitting 18th and

deep in a relegation battle. The slide has been coming. After consecutive sixth-place finishes under the Martin O'Neill reign and making the League Cup final, they've plummeted, much to the chargrill of fans. A merry-go-round of managers have come and gone, with a host of players leaving, destabilising any consistent future the club had.

O'Neill walked out five days before the season, because he wasn't given adequate funds from owner Randy Lerner. Gerard Houiller, antagonised everyone at the club, fans wanted him out. He got hospitalised and resigned. Then came Alex McLeish. He was Birmingham's manager, the archrivals of Villa. He currently holds the worst winning record in their history with 21%

Now, the baton has been passed to Paul Lambert. Upon his arrival, he cited it as a challenge. After



Man Utd remain in pole position in the EPL after defeating Liverpool

shows that Randy Lerner is willing consecutive promotions with Norwich City, and keeping them in England's top division, he felt that moving to one of the big clubs would benefit his career. Has it? Lambert's side has been dismal. Defensively, they are a mess. In fallen so far? the last five games, they conceded 18 goals, lost to League Two side Bradford City in the league cup and not to mention that humiliat-

ing 8-0 loss to Chelsea. But is it Lambert's fault? On the weekend, the team has an average of 23; they look lost with veteran campaigners and a lack of leadership on the field. During the sub-sequential years, Villa has let go of a host of experienced players, instead focusing on youth. The constant swapping of managers has left players concerned about their futures and confused where they stand.

Lambert's only six months into his contract, it takes players (especially younger players) time to adapt to new manager's training, tactics, style, attitude and

And its not like they don't spend: a host of signings, accumulating at around £20million spent, during the summer transfer window

to give the club the finances it needs. There are rumours circulating that Villa might plunge into the transfer window again. So maybe it is Lambert's fault the team has

The answer is: a bit of both. The club has been sliding down for ages and its been left to Lambert to clean up the mess and restore the pieces. Added to that a host of talented youthful players, with no leadership, there is going to some

And the outlook for both Lambert and Villa fans looks bleak, Lambert's job has been questioned in some quarters, the longer he stays in the relegation battle, the more questions get asked. And they face West Brom, Newcastle Everton and West Ham in the coming weeks.

Lambert is confident though, "I still think we will be safe. I just do. I've said that from day one." He just might not be around for it.

EPL Preview.

Was it the initial plan of the Football Association to plan tempting games back-to-back? After last weekend's double

ENGLAND

WWWWD2 Manchester City 3 Chelsea DWLWW 5 Everton DWLWW LDWWW West Bromwich . 8 Liverpool 9 Swansea City 10 Stoke City LLDWD 12 Norwich City 13 Fulham 14 Sunderland DWLDL 15 Southampton DWDDD 16 Newcastle United 22 17 Wigan Athletic 22 DLLLW 18 Aston Villa 19 Reading -25 -16 -19 LDLLL WLWD 20 Queens Park Ra...22 2 DWLLL

dose of Manchester games, featuring supporting acts by Arsenal and Liverpool. Another tasty double salvo of games will be on this Sunday night, but different situations for both.

Last week was all about the title race, this week; it's all about the fourth spot and the hunt for Champions League football. First up, we got ourselves a London derby between, Chelsea and Arsenal at Stamford Bridge. Followed by Tottenham welcoming over Manchester United.

The second game will have an effect on the title race. Manchester City will be playing 24 hours before against Fulham leaving United with knowledge with whatever City do, "we have to do". First up though, United have to navigate past West Ham in the FA Cup replay match. Fergie will be looking to put out a team that can progress, but also maintain a challenge for the title. Spurs though have the luxury of the week off. Which makes it a very tasty tie indeed. Spurs are unbeaten in the last six games. They have shown resilience under Andre Villas-Boas, but are they any different to Harry Redknapp's version? There

is tactical nous there, with AVB

testing and trying. Tottenham

handling it well.

want another crack at the Cham-

pions League and so far they are

United, therefore better be on

the toes. They won't be playing a

confident-lacking Liverpool side

team brimming with confidence.

Villas-Boas will want to strike a

dagger in the United heart and

put a spin in the title-race. Not

to mention their hunt for fourth

place, especially given the amount

Speaking of Arsenal and Chelsea.

they face off in a juicy tie with both

managers are facing intense scold-

Benitez admitted that he would not

be swayed by pressure from fans

"You have a word in English:

manager," said Benitez. "I will

choose the best players to win

games. This is always my job, to

decide which players are the best

His interim position wouldn't be

about his team selections

ing from fans. Chelsea's Rafael

of contestants this year: Chelsea,

Arsenal and Everton (and West

Brom, if we're really thinking

outside the box)

for any game.'

like last week; they've facing a

switching things up when needed,

QPR 0 - 0 Tottenham Hotspur Liverpool v Norwich City Aston Villa 0 - 1 Southampton Manchester City v Fulham Everton 0 - 0 Swansea City Newcastle United v Reading Fulham 1 - 1 Wigan Athletic Swansea City v Stoke City Norwich 0 - 0 Newcastle Utd West Ham United v QPF Reading 3 - 2 West Bromwich Wigan Athletic v Sunderland Stoke City 0 - 4 Chelsea WBA v Aston Villa Sunderland 3 - 0 West Ham Chelsea v Arsenal Manchester Utd 2 - 1 Liverpool Tottenham v Man Utd Arsenal 0 - 2 Man City Southampton v Everton Chelsea 2-2 Southampton

One To Watch This Weekend. Is Harry proving the doubters wrong? QPR don't look like the side that has plaqued the bottom of the league all season. Redknapp has instilled a quiet confidence in the boys, following four games unbeaten. They look to continue their turnaround when they travel to West Ham.

season's end.

any more secure now that former Barcelona manager Pep Guardiola has made it clear he wants to manage in the Premier League. Unless, he pulls something out the bag, his number's up come

Across the Thames River, Arsene Wenger is getting stick, after backing his club's robust spending strategy. He has claimed that he will "spend big" and "add maybe, if possible, two new players to the squad" during the January transfer window. But fans don't want prom ise; they want action. Wenger has preached the same thing over the years and yielded nothing.

During the week and by the time you read this, Arsenal will have faced Swansea in a replay of their FA Cup tie, while Chelsea will play their catch up game against Southampton.

The game therefore, could have an extra layer of spice. Chelsea could fall further behind the two top, while if Arsenal do fail to progress to the next round of the FA Cup, the fans will be bringing the knives out.

Andrew Bishara runs the popular football website http://thetrequartista.com

Premier League still a match for La Liga stars

London Eye



By Eddie Gray

The Premier League in the last ten years has prided itself on being the best division in the world, with the highest standards to match, but the most recent FIFA world XI failed to contain one player from the entire top division of English football. The XI, based on the events of

the previous calendar year, was made up solely of La Liga stars and highlighted the dominance Barcelona and Real Madrid have had on European football with only one member of the side, Radamel Falcao, not coming from those two clubs.

The Spanish based monopoly is a clear indication the Premier League is not the force it once was but also opened up a debate, because their was no English based recognition, about who would be picked in a Premier League XI if they were to be matched up against the FIFA XI in an almighty, yet completely hypothetical clash.

To start with the choice of formation would be crucial in order to combat the 4-2-3-1/4-3-3 picked by FIFA for their side. The best XI's in England have tended to field 4-2-3-1/4-3-3 in recent years, with Manchester United the only ones to deploy a standard 4-4-2, but even they have only reverted back to that regularly in the last two/three years, even in the bigger ties, so for familiarity purposes and as a way to match the opposition in midfield the domestic side will be picked with a 4-2-3-1 formation in mind. In goal there were two stand-out

candidates for the number one jersey in my Premier League XI for 2012. Those two were Joe Hart and Petr Cech. The former was excellent domestically, and was a key factor in Manchester City winning the league title, with his shot stopping and his presence in the box claiming points for City on his own. But the position in goal has to go to Cech. The Chelsea stopper wasn't at his best in the early stages of the year but his resurgence was superb and in the big games he stood up and was counted, most notably in the Champions League where he was almost unbeatable and one of the integral figures in Chelsea winning the biggest prize in European football, so he gets the nod over Hart.

Making up the two centre are Vincent Kompany and Branislav Ivanovic who were both exceptional in 2012. The latter at the most important moments for Chelsea provided great solidarity, whilst Kompany was the driving force behind his side's championship run and as a result is now regarded as one of the best defenders in the world. Left back was a more difficult choice and was closely contested between Leighton Baines and Ashley Cole. Baines has been in much the better form this season but over the year of judgement



Football Fantasy, Senor....

Cole has delivered on the bigger stage with greater regularity and cemented his legacy as one of the best left backs that has ever graced the Premier League and European football, so he gets the position at left back. The remaining place in my back four goes to Pablo Zabaleta. Kyle Walker ran him close, but the Argentinean, although not a first team regular throughout 2012, was often selected for the crunch ties at right back for City and by the end of the year had become first choice. This domestic season he has continued his progression has cemented himself as one of the best defenders in the league with his hard work and uncompromising attitude invaluable.

The two central midfield positions are fairly easy to select with Yaya Toure and Michael Carrick being head and shoulders above their rivals. Toure's pace and power from midfield was frightening in 2012, with his forward surges numerously creating chances for his team and his physicality allowing him to stamp his authority of the division. Carrick on the other hand didn't grab the headlines like his counterpart but his influence was just as valuable, with his control of games in possession hugely impressive and his passing range, both short and long, up there with the best in the league. These two would provide the perfect foil for each other as Carrick would allow Toure to bomb forward in the knowledge he had his partner covering him, and together they provided excellent balance to the side. Now for the creative hub of the

team, the three behind the front man. These three would have the freedom to roam and create

because putting shackles on the men who have to be imaginative and innovative in order to create chances is counter productive. Two of the three were easy to select and they were Gareth Bale and David Silva. In 2012 as a whole both were fundamental to their respective teams success with Silva providing guile to City's attacks, with his forward passes and assists like watching a hot knife cut through butter. Bale on the other hand was less subtle with his approach, but his speed and directness was instrumental in Tottenham's excellent season and the Welshman has established himself as one of the most feared attackers in world football. The final position behind the striker is a far more difficult choice. There are four candidates who easily could have been first

choice in any other season, but four doesn't go into one which leaves a tricky decision between Antonio Valencia, Marouane Fellani, Juan Mata and Luis Suarez. Valencia and Mata were the first two to be disregarded as they, although exceptional during their respective peaks in 2012, have not performed consistently enough for the same length of time compared to the other two. So the decision is between Fellani and Suarez and the position goes to the latter. Fellani has been destructive playing off the front man, with his strength and power bullying defenders but Suarez has carried his Liverpool side for near on two years and his trickery, pace and skill outweighs Fellani's attributes in such a creative position so he gets the final spot behind the front man.

And finally for the most important position on the field and the easiest decision yet. Robin Van Persie, who only narrowly missed out on the FIFA World XI, is the obvious and only choice up top. The Dutchman had an exceptional 2012 first for Arsenal and then Manchester United, scoring over 40 goals in the calendar year with many of them being match winning strikes. The forward is up there with Falcao as the best striker in the world and easily makes the number nine shirt his own in my Premier League XI. In a world where both elevens

could meet it would be a sensational spectacle and perhaps more ven than many would

Maybe the Premier League isn't dead and buried just yet.

Goal! Weekly - Friday 18th January 2013



By Luca Cetta

Juve's stumble gives Lazio hope

Parma held Juventus to a draw, allowing Lazio to close the gap to just three points. Fiorentina and Roma crashed away from home, while Napoli cruised to victory over Palermo.

Juventus travelled to Parma eager to recover from a shock defeat to Sampdoria, which had seen their lead cut. Wednesday's Coppa Italia win over Milan went to extra time. but Antonio Conte insisted fatigue would not be an issue. Roberto Donadoni's Parma remained the only side unbeaten at home after Pescara's upset win at Fiorentina. Their Stadio Ennio Tardini record ahead of Juve's visit was six wins from nine matches.

Conte made three changes from the Samp loss, while former Juve striker Amauri was eager to put one over his old club. The hosts had the better of the first half chances, but it took until after the interval to break the deadlock. Andrea Pirlo's deflected free kick flew past Antonio Mirante to give Juve the lead. It was his fifth free kick converted this season. Parma fought back against the run of play, with former Bayern Munich youth player Nicola Sansone drilling low across Gianluigi

Buffon. Conte accepted guilt for



Jaime Valdes of FC Parma competes for the ball with Mirko Vucinic of Juventus FC

the goal, claiming he called for a Mirko Vucinic dummy which was intercepted and started the equalising move. Meanwhile, Donadoni was pleased with the fightback, which kept the unbeaten record

creating important chances and allowing Juve only one shot. They found the goal with a heavy deflection, but we fought back and recovered with a great performance.'

While Juve stumbled, Lazio further reduced the gap with a 2-0 success over Atalanta. The Romans started poorly and it took a controversial incident to put them ahead. Davide Brivio's deflection cannoned off the underside of the crossbar and hit Sergio Floccari's hand, before he bundled it home. Despite Atalanta's protests the goal stood. Brivio's own goal then sealed the win.

Vladimir Petkovic defended his player, stating the handball was Zeliko Brkic was unlucky to net an own goal, giving the Viola an early lead. Antonio Di Natale equalised from the spot on the stroke of half time, but Fiorentina felt the decision was a wrong one. The game was blown open just past the hour as Di Natale and Luis Muriel scored within 60 seconds, the Colombian's after a goalkeep-

Catania claimed a 1-0 win over Roma, asking more questions of Zdenek Zeman and his side. Daniele De Rossi was dropped and Francesco Totti injured in the warm-up. A number of chances went begging, but not so when Alejandro Gomez was presented an opportunity. He produced

Serie A ITALY

Last5games Most recent first A GD Pts DLWWW 2 Lazio 13 +11 42 WWWWD +22 WWWLL WLDLW 3 Napoli 40 32 4 Internazionale 38 +13 35 +9 32 5 Fiorentina 10 10 37 43 LLWWLLLWLW 6 Roma 7 Milan 31 DWLWW 8 Udinese 9 Parma WDLWW LWLWW 10 Catania 27 21 11 Chievo 12 Torino WDWDL LLDLW WLLWD 14 Bologna 15 Sampdoria 10 12 DWLLL LWWLW 16 Pescara 17 Cagliari 18 Genoa 36 32 32 -17 -11 -16 19 WLLLL 21 19 Palermo 11 19 -12 LLLLL

Latest Results

Bologna 4 - 0 Chievo Palermo v Lazio Inter 2 - 0 Pescara Juventus v Udinese Torino 3 - 2 Siena Fiorentina v Napoli Lazio 2 - 0 Atalanta Milan v Bologna Udinese 3 - 1 Fiorentina Atalanta v Cagliari Cagliari 2 - 1 Genoa Genoa v Catania Parma 1 - 1 Juventus Chievo v Parma Napoli 3 - 0 Palermo Siena v Sampdoria Catania 1 - 0 Roma Pescara v Torino Sampdoria 0 - 0 Milan Roma v Inter

One To Watch This Weekend...

Lazio are unbeaten in 14 matches in all competitions - nine in Serie A - and will be favourites to keep the run going in Sicily.

accidental. "Floccari? We would a delightful chip over Mauro Former Toro winger Alessandro Goicoechea. Rosina missed a last-minute not have complained if the referee Coincidence would have it that penalty as Siena spurned the ophad awarded a free kick for the Salvatore Aronica and Andrea portunity to claim a point. handball, but the touch was an Dossena's Palermo debut would Looking ahead to this weekend, involuntary ricochet and that was come away at former club Napoli. there are two big battles taking the decision he made." It was a day to forget for the men place. All four sides involved have Udinese came from a goal down "We did well in the first half, in pink. Christian Maggio opened aspirations of making the Chamto defeat Fiorentina. Goalkeeper the scoring, followed by a typical

Gokhan Inler long-range bomb. Lorenzo Insigne produced the icing on the cake when he blasted home the third. Elsewhere, goals from Rodrigo Palacio and Fredy Guarin sealed a 2-0 win for Inter over a disappointing Pescara, who could not repeat

their Florence heroics. Cross-town rivals Milan played out an entertaining, but ultimately fruitless 0-0 draw at Sampdoria. Bologna thumped in-form Chievo

4-0 - with Alberto Gilardino securing a brace - while Cagliari came from behind to defeat Genoa 2-1 at a rain-soaked Is Arenas. Torino won 3-2 over fellow strugglers Siena following a dramatic finale.

pions League. Firstly, Fiorentina host Napoli. Vincenzo Montella's Viola are aiming to bounce back from a poor start to 2013 in which they have not picked up a point. Fiorentina's playmaker David Pizarro returns from injury. Napoli are currently five points clear of the Florentines and with Juve's stumble will want to continue to close the gap. Edinson Cavani sits on 99 Serie A goals and will be seeking the opportunity to bring up his century.

The other huge contest sees sixthplaced Roma host fourth-placed Inter. The reverse fixture was probably the finest of Zeman's second reign in charge in the capital. They are hopeful of recovering Pablo

Osvaldo and Totti from injury as De Rossi looks set to return to the starting XI. The Nerazzurri welcome back Andrea Ranocchia from suspension but must be wary of fatigue after going to extra time in the Coppa Italia.

Juventus must return to winning ways when they entertain Udinese One point this calendar year has eaten away at their lead, as Vucinic again starts from the bench due to an ankle complaint. Di Natale is on fire, having scored four goals in the past two games.

Elsewhere, Milan will be looking to take advantage of any slip-up in the European battles when they host Bologna. Struggling Palermo welcome high-flying Lazio to the Stadio Renzo Barbera, as Atalanta and Cagliari clash. Chievo will look to atone for their heavy defeat at home to Parma, with Genoa aiming to arrest their slide versus Catania, Pescara host Torino and finally, Siena will take on resurgent Sampdoria.

Fetch TV Now Broadcasting Barca TV and Real TV Channels Exclusively



By Pepe Lopez

In direct competition with Australia's major Pay TV provider Foxtel, the internet based Pay TV service "Fetch TV" now offers comparable movies, news, entertainment and music channels in addition to exclusive football channels of "Barca TV", "Real Madrid TV", "MUTV", "Chelsea TV" & "City TV", for as little as \$15 per month. Fetch TV's deal offers Australian Pay TV subscribers, and more specifically those viewers who wish to view the world's best football players, as voted by FIFA members, each week in the Spanish La Liga, a much cheaper alternative to Foxtel, where the minimum sports package costs in excess of \$38 per month, and does not provide any coverage of the Spanish La Liga. Foxtel's sports channels focus solely on the A-League and English Premier League competitions, for more the double the price of

Goal Weekly's Spanish correspondent, Pepe Lopez has now attempted to contact ESPN Australia 3 times directly via their web-site, in



Barcelona continues it march towrds the La Liga title with another another comprehensive display away to Malaga, but were unable to repeat the feat a few days later in the Copa del Rey.

regards to the decision made last year to drop coverage of the Spanish La Liga in Australia. Pepe Lopez has now also attempted to contact Foxtel programming directly via the Foxtel web-site, in regards to the fact that football channels such as "Barca TV" & "Real Madrid TV" are exclusively available on Fetch TV, and that the much more expensive Pay TV Service Foxtel can not broadcast these football channels on demand for a higher package fee. The irony here, is that between Foxtel and ESPN in Australia, there is little concern for Australian based La Liga fans, however the 2 entities. Fox and ESPN have joint sports channels in Asia, that provide live weekly Spanish La

Liga coverage.

Fetch TV's broadcast of "Barca TV" reads as follows; "BARCATV is the official club channel of FC Barcelona, one of the most exciting, successful and cosmopolitan football clubs in the world. With state of the art production and technical facilities, FULL English graphics and English commentary of renowned football names such as Steve Archibald, BARCA TV offers ready to broadcast content of the highest quality. The channel specialises in exclusive news, player interviews, magazine and history programs, as well as FULL delayed coverage of all FC Barcelona La Liga, UEFA Champions League and Copa del Rey matches. FC Barcelona comes

SPAIN La Liga P W D L F A GD Pts

1 Barcelona	19	18	1	0	64	20	+44	55	wwww
2 Atlético Madrid	19	14	2	3	40	18	+22	44	WDWLW
3 Real Madrid	19	11	4	4	45	20	+25	37	DWLDW
4 Real Betis	19	11	1	7	30	29	+1	34	WWLWL
5 Málaga	19	9	4	6	29	16	+13	31	LLWWW
6 Rayo Vallecano	19	10	1	8	27	34	-7	31	WWWWL
7 Valencia	19	9	3	7	27	27	+0	30	WWWLW
8 Levante	19	9	3	7	24	27	-3	30	LWLWW
9 Real Sociedad	19	7	5	7	28	25	+3	26	DLWDD
10 Real Valladolid	19	7	4	8	27	25	+2	25	WLLDL
11 Getafe	19	7	4	8	24	30	-6	25	DLLDD
12 Sevilla	19	6	4	9	23	28	-5	22	LWLLD
13 Real Zaragoza	19	7	1	11	21	28	-7	22	LLWLW
14 Athletic Club	19	6	3	10	23	39	-16	21	LLLWW
15 Celta de Vigo	19	5	3	11	19	24	-5	18	LWLLL
16 Espanyol	19	4	6	9	20	30	-10	18	WLWDD
17 Granada	19	4	5	10	16	29	-13	17	DLWDL
18 Mallorca	19	4	5	10	18	33	-15	17	LDWLL
19 Deportivo La C	19	3	7	9	23	40	-17	16	DWLDL
20 Osasuna	19	3	6	10	14	20	-6	15	DLLDL

alive on BARCA TV."

Fetch TV's broadcast of "Real Madrid TV" reads as follows; "RM TV is the official club channel of Real Madrid FC, one of the most exciting and cosmopolitan football clubs in the world. RMTV offers Real Madrid fans exclusive interviews with players and staff, full matches, including all La Liga games, reserve and academy games and "classic" matches plus footballing news and other themed programming."

Copa del Rey

Malaga came from behind to clinch a 2-2 draw with Barcelona in a thrilling first leg of their Copa Del Rey quarter-final tie

on Wednesday.

Nacho Camacho's 90th-minute goal earned a share of the spoils for Malaga, who had substitute Nacho Monreal sent off with 15 minutes to go at Camp Nou.

Barcelona, who beat Malaga 3-1 in La Liga at the weekend, were left stunned in the 26th minute when a defensive mistake allowed Manuel Iturra to open the scoring. But the hosts were back on top soon after as goals from Lionel Messi and Carles Puyol within the space of two minutes put Malaga on the back foot.

Monreal was shown a straight red card for denying Pedro a clear opportunity on goal, forcing Malaga

Latest Results

Athletic Club 1 - 2 R Vallecano Espanyol v Mallorca Real Valladolid 3 - 1 Mallorca Granada v R Vallecano Sociedad v Barcelona Espanyol 1 - 0 Celta de Vigo Osasuna 0 - 0 Real Madrid Getafe v Sevilla Málaga v Celta de Vigo Valencia 2 - 0 Sevilla Real Betis 2 - 0 Levante Osasuna v Deportivo Valladolid v Zaragoza Real Sociedad 1 - 1 Deportivo Atlético Mad 2 - 0 Zaragoza Atlético Mad v Levante Valencia v Real Madrid Málaga 1 - 3 Barcelona Real Betis v Athletic Club Getafe 2 - 2 Granada

One To Watch This Weekend...

Real Madrid travel to Valencia this Sunday to play the 2nd of 3 matches between the 2 clubs in little more than 1 week This Sunday's La Liga match, is in the middle of the 2-leg Spanish "King's" Cup Quarter-Final, or alternatively referred to as "Copa Del Rey" in Spanish. Real Madrid won the 1st leg of their Copa Del Rey Quarter Final against Valencia 2-0 at home, and are now on track to meet arch rivals FC Barcelona in the semi-final of the Copa Del Rey in a few weeks time.

to search for an equaliser with only

But with stoppage time looming, Duda crossed the ball to Camacho, who silenced the Barcelona faithful with a perfectly executed volley.

Meanwhile, Real Zaragoza played host to Sevilla in a 0-0 stalemate in the opening leg of their last-eight clash at La Romareda.

Sevilla almost took the lead in the opening half through Alvaro Negredo, who was correctly ruled offside after finding the net.

Malaga will entertain Barcelona in the second leg of their tie next week, while Zaragoza will travel to Sevilla in their bid for a place in the last four.



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One Game At A Time

CROATIA 1.HNL

13

9 5 5

5 4

10

16 12 31 31

19

19

19 4

1 Dinamo Zagreb

5 Slaven Koprivnica

2 Hajduk Split

3 Lokomotiva

4 Rijeka

6 Split

7 Osijek

10 Zadar

11 Cibalia 12 Zagreb

8 Istra 1961

9 Inter Zaprešic

2 Bayer Leverkusen

3 Borussia Dortmund

4 Eintracht Fran.

5 Freiburg 6 Mainz 05

7 Schalke 04

9 Stuttgart

8 Borussia M'gla.

10 Hamburger SV

12 Werder Bremer

13 Fortuna Düsseldo

27 18

27 14 5

26

27 27 11 10

27

8 8 6

6 15

Greece Super League

D L F

W

10

17 6

17 5 8

17 4

17 3

Tranmere Rovers 2 - 0 Crawley Town

Oldham Athletic 0 - 2 Brentford

Milton Keynes Dons 1 - 1 Bury

Portsmouth PSTP Notts County

Stevenage 1 - 2 Doncaster Rovers

Sheffield United 0 - 2 Yeovil Town

Preston North End 1 - 3 Walsall

Carlisle United 1 - 0 Coventry City

Coventry City 1-0 Tranmere Rovers

Leyton Orient 1 - 1 Crewe Alexandra

Shrewsbury Town 1 - 1 Hartlepool United

Colchester United 1 - 2 Scunthorpe United

AFC Bournemouth 1 - 1 Swindon Town

W D L

13 8 15 2

13 11

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10 10 7 10 38 41 36 40

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10 10 40 32 41 44

13 33 39 -6 32 DLLLW

12 11

15 18

11 Hannover 96

14 Nürnberg

15 Wolfsburg

17 Augsburg

1 Cardiff City

3 Leicester City

4 Crystal Palace

5 Middlesbrough

8 Brighton & Hov.

11 Leeds United

12 Derby County

15 Blackpool

13 Blackburn Rovers 26 9

14 Charlton Athletic 27

16 Bolton Wanderers 27

20 Birmingham City

23 Barnsley

2 PAOK

4 Atromitos

5 Levadiakos

7 Panionios

10 OFI

13 Aris

14 Veria

16 Kerkyra

11 Xanthi

12 Platanias

15 AEK Athens

6 PAS Giannina

8 Panthrakikos

9 Panathinaikos

21 Sheffield Wedn... 27 22 Peterborough U... 27

1 Olympiakos Piraeus17

3 Asteras Tripolis

17 Huddersfield Town 27 8

18 Wolverhampton ... 27 9

9 Nottingham Forest

2 Hull City

6 Watford

10 Burnley

16 Hoffenheim

18 Greuther Fürth

D



F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5gan Most recen
39	14	+25	41	WLWLW
27	14	+13	33	WDDDW
27	21	+6	32	WLWDW
28	23	+5	32	DDWWL
28	26	+2	31	DWLWL
28	22	+6	30	LWWLW
19	17	+2	23	LDLDL
17	22	-5	20	LDLLW
21	25	-4	19	LLLWD
20	26	16	17	M/D/M/L/M/

-15 16 -19 16

LDLWL

TURKEY Süper Lig

17

17 3

16 2

1 Galatasaray

3 Antalyaspor

4 Fenerbahce

6 Bursaspor

7 Trabzonspor

8 Karabükspor

9 Kasımpaşa

10 Sivasspor

11 Gençlerbirliği

12 İstanbul BB

14 Gaziantepspor

18 Akhisar Beledi...

17 Mersin İdmanyurdu17 3

15 Kayserispor

16 Elazığspor

2 Twente

5 Vitesse

6 Utrecht

7 NEC

4 Feyenoord

8 ADO Den Haag

9 RKC Waalwijk

10 Heracles

11 Groningen

15 Roda JC

17 NAC Breda

3 Ajax

13 Orduspor

5 Eskişehirspor

2 Beşiktaş



1 Partizan

3 Jagodina

4 Voivodina

5 Rad Beograd

6 Javor Ivanjica

7 Sloboda Užice

9 OFK Beograd 10 Novi Pazar

11 Donji Srem

12 Radnički Niš 13 BSK Borča

14 Haiduk Kula

16 Smederevo

15 Radnički 1923 .

8 Spartak Subotica

2 Crvena Zvezda

GD Pts

27

24

24 24

23 LLDDD

21

21 20

-16

GD Pts

> +21 40 WWL

+22

+0 20 DLDL

-15

-22

-22 12

37

24 LDLD

23 22

+14

+13

38

28

25 19 +6

32 23

26

19 23

24 20

21 24 -3 -1 -1 +0

25 26

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16 24 -8 -7 20

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34 18 +16 35 LDLW

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Valenciennes v Olympique Lyonnais Rennes v Olympique Mars Nancy v Lorient Troyes v Brest Evian TG v Ajaccio Montpellier v Sochaux Reims v Toulouse Saint-Étienne v Bastia Nice v Bordeaux PSG v Lille

Germany

Schalke 04 v Hannover 96 Bayern München v Greuther Fürth yer Leverkusen v Eintracht Fran Wolfsburg v Stuttgart Hoffenheim v Borussia M'gla Mainz 05 v Freiburg Werder Bremen v Borussia Dortmund Nürnberg v Hamburger SV Fortuna Düsseldorf v Augsburg

GERMANY Bundesliga



							J	
Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
17	13	3	1	44	7	+37	42	DWDWW
17	10	3	4	33	22	+11	33	WLWWW
17	8	6	3	35	20	+15	30	WLDDW
17	9	3	5	33	27	+6	30	WWLLD
17	7	5	5	24	18	+6	26	WWDLW
17	8	2	7	24	21	+3	26	WLWWL
17	7	4	6	27	25	+2	25	LLDLD
17	6	7	4	25	26	-1	25	DWDWD
17	7	4	6	21	28	-7	25	LWWWL
17	7	3	7	18	21	-3	24	LWDWL
17	7	2	8	32	31	+1	23	LWLWL
17	6	4	7	28	29	-1	22	DLWLD
rf17	5	6	6	20	22	-2	21	WLWDW
17	5	5	7	17	22	-5	20	DWLWD
17	5	4	8	17	27	-10	19	LWDLD
17	3	3	11	23	41	-18	12	LLLLL
17	1	6	10	12	29	-17	9	DLDLD
17	1	6	10	11	28	-17	9	DLLLD

CHAMPIONSHIP

6 8 48 38 29 30

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48 23

50 47

49 40 37 36 +12 43

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38 41 44 40

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36 44

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23 17 11 12 14 15 +12 31

13 16

17

9 19 18

10 13 38 +9

27

34 +2

40

43 51 -12 -13 28 25

Α GD Pts

10 +15 35

23 21 17

LDWDW

WWWDL

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WLWWD DWLLD

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LWLLW

LDLDL

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DLDDD

DLLWD

WLDWW

WLLLW

GD Pts

+19 57 +8 49

+25 47

+10 40

-6 +1

47 47

40 39

38 37

36 DWWLL

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HOLLAND Eredivisie

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Last5games Most recent first	
WDWLL WWLWD DWWWW WWDWW LDLWW DWDWL LDLDW WLDLW DDWLD LDLDD LDLWD LWDLL WLDLD WDDLD LWDLD WDDLD LWDLD LWDLL WLDLD LDLDD LDDD LDDDD WDDLL LDWDD LDDDD WDDLL LDWDD LDDDL LDDDL LDDDL LDDDL LDDDL LDDDL LDDDL LDDDL LDDDL LDDDL	1 Celtic 2 Inverses 3 Motherwa 4 Hiberniar 5 Aberdeer 6 St. Johns 7 Kilmarnoo 8 Dundee U 9 Heart of I 10 St. Mirc 11 Ross Cc 12 Dundee

SCOTLAND SPL

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Last5ga Most rece
1 Celtic	21	13	4	4	40	15	+25	43	WLWWW
2 Inverness CT	21	8	10	3	44	35	+9	34	DDWDW
3 Motherwell	22	9	7	6	37	30	+7	34	LDWLW
4 Hibernian	22	9	5	8	31	29	+2	32	DWLDL
5 Aberdeen	22	8	7	7	30	28	+2	31	DWLWL
6 St. Johnstone	22	7	9	6	24	26	-2	30	WDDLD
7 Kilmarnock	21	7	7	7	32	27	+5	28	DDWDW
8 Dundee United	21	6	8	7	33	34	-1	26	DLDLD
9 Heart of Midlo	21	6	8	7	20	22	-2	26	DLWDW
10 St. Mirren	22	6	7	9	30	38	-8	25	DWDWL
11 Ross County	20	4	9	7	21	30	-9	21	WLDLD
12 Dundee	21	3	3	15	13	41	-28	12	LLLLD

Croatia

Osijek v Dinamo Zagreb Inter Zaprešic v Zadal Split v Zagreb enters winte Istra 1961 v Lokomotiva Cibalia v Osijek resumes agair Dinamo Zagreb v Rijeka Slaven Koprivnica v Hajduk Split in February 2013

Hajduk Kula v Jagodina Donji Srem v OFK Beograd League enters BSK Borča v Partizan winter break Spartak Subotica v Sloboda Užice and Smederevo v Vojvodina resumes Crvena Zvezda v Javor Ivanjica Radnički 1923 ... v Rad Beograd again in February Radnički Niš v Novi Pazar 2013

English Championship

Leicester City v Middlesbrough Derby County v Nottingham Forest Watford v Huddersfield Town Millwall v Burnley Leeds United v Bristol City Sheffield Wedn... v Wolverhampton Peterborough U... v Hull City Blackburn Rovers v Charlton Athletic Ipswich Town v Barnsley Birmingham City v Brighton & Hov. Crystal Palace v Bolton Wanderers Blackpool v Cardiff City

English League One Crawley Town v Carlisle United Doncaster Rovers v Leyton Orient Brentford v Tranmere Rovers Bury v Stevenage Crewe Alexandra v Milton Keynes Dons Notts County v Sheffield United Scunthorpe United v Portsmouth Swindon Town v Shrewsbury Town Hartlepool United v Colchester United Yeovil Town v Preston North End Walsall v AFC Bournemouth

Coventry City v Oldham Athletic

English League Two Morecambe v Cheltenham Town Barnet v Fleetwood Tov Accrington Stanley v AFC Wimbledon Bristol Rovers v Exeter City Oxford United v Rotherham United York City v Aldershot Town Southend United v Plymouth Argyle
Wycombe Wanderers v Dagenham & Red. Port Vale v Bradford City Rochdale v Gillingham Northampton Town v Burton Albion Torquay United v Chesterfield

Scotland

St. Mirren v Ross County Celtic v Heart of Midlo. Inverness CT v Aberdee Kilmarnock v Dundee United Hibernian v Dundee Motherwell v St. Johnstone

Aldershot Town v Northampton Town

Greece

OFI v Panionios Panathinaikos v Panthrakikos Asteras Tripolis v PAOK Atromitos y Platanias Xanthi v Kerkyra Olympiakos Piraeus v PAS Giannina Aris v AEK Athens

Akhisar Beledi... v Antalyaspo Kasımpaşa v Galatasaray Sivasspor v Gaziantepspor Beşiktaş v İstanbul BB Bursaspor v Kayserispor Antalyaspor v Gençlerbirliği Trabzonspor v Karabükspor Fenerbahçe v Elazığspor Orduspor v Mersin İdmanyurdu Akhisar Beledi... v Eskişehirspor

PSV v PEC Zwolle Heerenveen v Heracles Twente v RKC Waalwijk NAC Breda v VVV AZ v Vitesse Groningen v Utrecht Willem II v ADO Den Haag Ajax v Feyenoord Roda JC v NEC

Portuga

Sporting CP v Beira-Mar Porto v Paços de Ferreira Marítimo v Olhanense Estoril v Gil Vicente Sporting Braga v Vitória Setúbal Rio Ave v Vitória Guimarães Académica v Nacional Moreirense v Benfica

12 AZ 23 13 Heerenveen 14 PEC Zwolle

18 4

18 3

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Most recent fir
1 Tranmere Rovers	28	15	8	5	44	25	+19	53	' Most recent fir LWWWW
2 Doncaster Rovers	27	16	5	6	41	25	+16	53	WWDWW
3 Brentford	26	13	10	3	38	23	+15	49	WDDWW
4 Sheffield United	27	12	11	4	38	25	+13	47	LDLWW
5 Swindon Town	26	13	7	6	47	19	+28	46	D W W W W
6 Milton Keynes Dons	s26	12	7	7	38	26	+12	43	DWLLW
7 AFC Bournemouth	26	11	10	5	44	34	+10	43	DDWWW
8 Yeovil Town	27	13	3	11	43	38	+5	42	WWWLW
9 Crawley Town	27	12	5	10	36	39	-3	41	LWLWL
10 Coventry City	28	11	7	10	45	35	+10	40	WLLWW
11 Crewe Alexandra	27	11	7	9	34	34	+0	40	DLWWL
12 Stevenage	26	11	7	8	34	36	-2	40	LWLLL
13 Walsall	28	10	8	10	37	42	-5	38	WWWLW
14 Notts County	24	9	9	6	36	26	+10	36	LDLDW
15 Leyton Orient	25	11	2	12	28	31	-3	35	DLWLW
16 Preston North End		8	10	9	35	34	+1	34	LWLDD
17 Carlisle United	27	9	5	13	34	49	-15	32	WLLWW
18 Shrewsbury Town		6	12	10	31	35	-4	30	DDWDD
19 Oldham Athletic	27	7	6	14	27	38	-11	27	LDLLL
20 Scunthorpe United		6	7	14	28	47	-19	25	WDDLL
21 Colchester United		6	5	16	25	44	-19	23	LLLLL
22 Bury	27	4	10	13	27	42	-15	22	DLLDD
23 Portsmouth	26	5	6	15	29	44	-15	21	LLLLD
24 Hartlepool United	26	2	7	17	19	47	-28	13	DLWLL

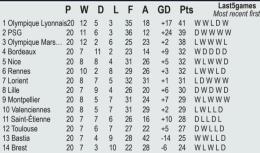
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	S Last5games Most recent first
1 Port Vale	27	15	7	5	56	30	+26	52	WWLWW
2 Gillingham	26	15	6	5	45	23	+22	51	LWWLD
3 Exeter City	27	13	5	9	42	38	+4	44	WWWDL
4 Rotherham United	26	13	4	9	42	37	+5	43	LWWLW
5 Cheltenham Town	26	12	7	7	37	34	+3	43	DLWLD
6 Burton Albion	27	12	6	9	39	38	+1	42	WLWWL
7 Southend United	27	11	7	9	41	29	+12	40	LLLWW
8 Bradford City	27	11	7	9	38	33	+5	40	LLDLW
9 Fleetwood Town	27	10	10	7	34	28	+6	40	LLWDW
10 Northampton Tow	n26	11	6	9	43	36	+7	39	LWWWD
11 Chesterfield	28	10	9	9	37	31	+6	39	WLLDW
12 Oxford United	26	11	5	10	40	39	+1	38	WWWD
13 Dagenham & Red		10	7	11	42	41	+1	37	WLWLL
14 Rochdale	28	10	6	12	46	47	-1	36	LLLWL
15 York City	27	8	11	8	35	37	-2	35	DLWDL
16 Torquay United	25	8	9	8	33	32	+1	33	LLDDL
17 Wycombe W	27	9	6	12	32	40	-8	33	DWLWL
18 Morecambe	27	8	8	11	33	36	-3	32	LWDDL
19 Accrington Stanle	y 28	8	6	14	30	45	-15	30	LLWLL
20 Barnet	28	7	8	13	29	41	-12	29	WWLDW
21 Aldershot Town	26	7	7	12	25	38	-13	28	WWDLW
22 Plymouth Argyle	28	6	9	13	31	41	-10	27	WLLLD
23 AFC Wimbledon	26	7	5	14	30	48	-18	26	DWWLL
24 Bristol Rovers	26	6	7	13	31	49	-18	25	WLWDL

Portugal Premeira Liga



	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	Most re
1 Benfica	14	- 11	3	0	37	11	+26	36	DWWWW
2 Porto	13	10	3	0	30	8	+22	33	DWWWW
3 Sporting Braga	14	- 8	2	4	30	18	+12	26	LWWWL
4 Paços de Ferreira	a 14	- 6	7	1	17	10	+7	25	WWWDD
5 Rio Ave	14	6	3	5	17	17	+0	21	WLLDW
6 Estoril	14	- 5	3	6	20	20	+0	18	WLLWL
7 Vitória Guimarãe:	s 14	4	5	5	14	21	-7	17	DDLWD
8 Sporting CP	14	3	6	5	13	16	-3	15	WLDLD
9 Nacional	14	4	3	7	19	26	-7	15	WLDLW
10 Marítimo	14	- 3	6	5	12	22	-10	15	DDLWD
11 Beira-Mar	14	- 3	5	6	19	25	-6	14	LDWWD
12 Vitória Setúbal	13	3	5	5	18	24	-6	14	WLLLD
13 Olhanense	14	. 3	5	6	16	22	-6	14	LWDLL
14 Académica	14	- 2	7	5	19	23	-4	13	LWDLD
15 Gil Vicente	14	- 2	6	6	12	19	-7	12	LDDLD
16 Moreirense	14	. 1	5	8	14	25	-11	8	LLDLD

F**rance** Ligue 1



WWWDW DWWWD DWDWD LWWLW DDLWL DLLDW WLWLDLWDWD DDLDL LWDDDDLWDD

Last5games

15 Ajaccio 16 Reims 29 22 DLLWL LDDLD 20 20 5 20 5 11 11 11 30 34 39 WLLLD 17 Sochaus -10 19

19 Troyes ...Results...Results....Results....Results....Results...

THE CHAMPIONSHIP **ENGLISH LEAGUE TWO**

Burton Albion 2 - 1 Torquay United Wolverhampton ... 1 - 1 Blackburn Rovers Middlesbrough 1 - 2 Watford Exeter City 3 - 0 Southend United Bolton Wanderers 1 - 1 Millwall Nottingham Forest 2 - 1 Peterborough U... Dagenham & Red... 2 - 1 Rochdale Aldershot Town 2 - 0 Accrington Stanley Plymouth Argyle 2 - 1 Morecambe Charlton Athletic 2 - 1 Blackpool Brighton & Hov... 2 - 1 Derby County Gillingham 1 - 2 Port Vale Cardiff City 0 - 0 Ipswich Town Bradford City 1 - 2 Oxford United Fleetwood Town 0 - 3 Bristol Rovers Barnsley 2 - 0 Leeds United Bristol City 0 - 4 Leicester Cit Rotherham United 0 - 2 Barnet Huddersfield Town 1 - 1 Birmingham City AFC Wimbledon 2 - 2 Wycombe Wanderers Burnley 1 - 0 Crystal Palace Chesterfield 3 - 0 Northampton Town Hull City 1 - 3 Sheffield Wedn. Cheltenham Town 1 - 1 York City Torquay United 07:00 Exeter City **ENGLISH LEAGUE ONE**

FRANCE

Saint-Étienne 2 - 2 Toulouse PSG 0 - 0 Ajaccio Troves 1 - 2 Olympique Lyonnais Nancy 2 - 2 Lille Evian TG 0 - 2 Brest Montpellier 2 - 0 Lorient Rennes 0 - 2 Bordeaux Reims 1 - 2 Bastia Nice 5 - 0 Valenciennes Sochaux 3 - 1 Olympique Mars...

CROATIA

10

21 17

Winter Break

20

GERMANY

Bayern München 1 - 1 Borussia M'gla Greuther Fürth 1 - 1 Augsburg Mainz 05 3 - 1 Stuttgart Wolfshurg 0 - 2 Fintracht I Bayer Leverkusen 3 - 0 Hamburger SV Fortuna Düsseldorf 2 - 1 Hannover 96 Schalke 04 1 - 3 Freiburg Hoffenheim 1 - 3 Borussia Dortmund Werder Bremen 1 - 1 Nürnberg

GREECE

AEK Athens 1 - 0 Xanthi Panthrakikos 1 - 1 Platanias Levadiakos 0 - 1 Olympiakos Piraeus PAS Giannina 0 - 0 Panathinaikos OFI 2 - 0 Aris Panionios 1 - 1 Veria PAOK 0 - 0 Atromitos Kerkyra 0 - 1 Asteras Tripolis

HOLLAND

Winter Break

LDWLD

DLDDD

SCOTLAND

SERBIA Winter Break

TURKEY

Winter Break

PORTUGAL

Vitória Guimarães 1 - 1 Marítimo

Nacional 3 - 2 Sporting Braga

Gil Vicente 0 - 1 Rio Ave

Benfica 2 - 2 Porto

Beira-Mar 0 - 1 Estoril

Olhanense 0 - 2 Sporting CP

Vitória Setúbal 5 - 0 Moreirense

Pacos de Ferreira 1 - 0 Académica

Goal! Weekly - Friday 18th January 2013

League

winter break

resumes

again 19th

2013





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NIKE L'ELEGUE FUTSAL PREMIERSHIP

PREMIERSHIP



Goal! Weekly - Friday 18th January 2013